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Překladové koreláty anglických *tough*-constructions

English *tough*-constructions and their Czech counterparts

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.....

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Souhlasím se zapůjčením bakalářské práce ke studijním účelům.

I have no objections to the BA thesis being borrowed and used for study purposes.

ABSTRAKT

Tato práce se zabývá anglickými *tough*-constructions a jejich českými překladovými protějšky. *Tough*-constructions jsou vazby s verbonominálním přísudkem obsahujícím nejčastěji adjektivum a transpozicí předmětu do pozice podmětu (např. *he is difficult to get on with*), jež nemají v českém jazyce syntaktickou obdobu. S touto transpozicí předmětu infinitivu do pozice podmětu se setkáváme i po některých substantivech a slovesech. Adjektiva či substantiva doplňující infinitiv *tough*-constructions (tzv. *tough*-predicates) poté hodnotí děj či předmět infinitivního děje. Práce si klade za cíl zjistit, jakými prostředky jsou tyto anglické vazby překládány do českého jazyka. Za účelem analýzy bylo z InterCorpu, paralelního anglicko-českého korpusu, vyextrahováno sto příkladů anglických *tough*-constructions společně s jejich českými překladovými protějšky. Samotná analýza se soustředí na zkoumání jejich syntaktické struktury, realizaci přísudku, překlad adjektiva, temporální referenci a aktuálně-členskou platnost českého významového ekvivalentu anglického podmětu.

klíčová slova: *tough*-constructions, překladové protějšky, *tough*-predicates, syntaktická struktura, aktuální členění větné

ABSTRACT

This thesis deals with English *tough*-constructions and their Czech translation counterparts. *Tough*-constructions are constructions the verb phrases of which most frequently contain an adjective and their object is placed into the position of a subject (e.g. *he is difficult to get on with*). These constructions have no Czech syntactic equivalent. The transposition of the object into the subject position is also possible with some nouns and verbs. Adjectives or nouns complementing the infinitive phrase (a.k.a. *tough*-predicates) then evaluate the action or the object of the action expressed by the infinitive phrase. The aim of this thesis is to determine how these English constructions are translated into the Czech language. For the purpose of the analysis one hundred instances of the English *tough*-constructions together with their Czech translation counterparts were extracted from the InterCorp, a parallel English-Czech corpus. The analysis itself focuses on the examination of their syntactic structure, realization of the verb, the translation of the adjective, temporal reference and functional sentence perspective of the Czech semantic equivalent of the English subject.

key words: *tough*-constructions, translation counterparts, *tough*-predicates, syntactic structure, functional sentence perspective

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|----------|------------------------------|
| AP..... | adjective phrase |
| NP..... | noun phrase |
| Op..... | operator |
| PRO..... | pronominal determiner phrase |
| t..... | trace |

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1. INTRODUCTION

The aim of this thesis is to study English *tough*-constructions and their Czech translation counterparts, which have not been given much attention in Czech linguistic literature, with the exception of *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny* (2009) by Dušková, et al., who discuss some of the most frequent translation tendencies. As the structure of *tough*-constructions (e.g. *he is difficult to get on with*) has no Czech syntactic equivalent, it has to be translated by other means, e.g. *it is difficult to get on with him* – “je těžké s ním vyjít”, or the Czech counterpart is of reflexive dispositional type, e.g. “těžko se s ním vychází”. (Dušková, et al., 2009: 410). Finally, the adjective, being the most frequent *tough*-predicate, is often translated as a corresponding Czech adverb. (Dušková, et al., 2009: 547) The lack of the Czech syntactic equivalent of this unique English construction results in variety of translations. Focus will be given to the analysis of the translation methods and therefore of the syntactic structure of the Czech translation counterparts, attention will also be paid to the realization of the verb, the translation of the adjectival predicate, temporal reference and functional analysis.

The theoretical part summarizes the basic findings about the morpho-syntactic features of English *tough*-constructions. We give a brief overview of early generativist approaches to these constructions, the discussion then continues with the established analysis of “prototypical” *tough*-constructions. The semantic and morphological features of subject in these constructions are explored, followed by a discussion of the acceptability of phrases referring to a point of a time in the past. We make the distinction between possible *tough*-predicates and the discussion ends with a functional analysis. This thesis mainly draws on *Infinitival complement clauses in English* (1989) by Christian Mair as well as Rodney Huddleston, Geoffrey K. Pullum et al.’s *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language* (2002), Douglas Biber, et al.’s *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English* (1999), Randolph Quirk, et al.’s *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* (1989) and Dušková, et al.’s *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny* (2009). For the analysis of the Czech translation counterparts, *Průruční mluvnice češtiny* (2008) by Miroslav Grepl, et al., is used as the primary source.

The empirical part provides an analysis of one hundred examples of English *tough*-constructions and their Czech translation counterparts. The individual concordance lines were

extracted from InterCorp (<https://kontext.korpus.cz>), a parallel English-Czech corpus, accessible through the website of the Czech National Corpus. For the purpose of this thesis, the authentic examples of the examined corpus are limited to the *tough*-constructions containing the four most frequent adjectival *tough*-predicates as attested by Mair's corpus-based research (1989): *difficult*, *easy*, *hard* and *impossible*. The analysis focuses on the syntactic structure of the Czech counterparts; special attention is paid to translation tendencies connected to different adjectival *tough*-predicates. We explore the realization of the verb and the translation of the adjectival *tough*-predicate as well as the temporal reference of the individual *tough*-constructions. We also briefly examine the functional sentence perspective of the Czech semantic equivalent of the English subject– whether it is in both instances a thematic element or not.

The conclusion provides a brief overview of the results; enclosed at the end of the thesis is an appendix of the complete set of corpus-extracted sentences providing examples of English *tough*-constructions and their Czech translation counterparts analysed in the empirical part.

2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. *Tough*-constructions

Tough-constructions¹ have since the early days of generative syntax induced considerable theoretical difficulty (Hicks, 2009: 535) and subsequently have been used by theorists of different backgrounds as “a touchstone to test the validity and feasibility of linguistic theories.” (Ikeya, 1996: 1) Alluding to the illustrative examples of such structures widely used in the linguistic literature of the 1960’s and 1970’s, the terms *tough*-construction and *tough*-movement were introduced for structures of the kind represented in (1) by “reasons of canonical (if rather informal) examples involving the adjective *tough*.” (Quirk, et al., 1985: 1395) In the absence of traditional terminology, the terms have gained popularity in subsequent writings (Mair, 1989: 58) and the term “*tough*-construction” will be used in the chapters of this thesis as a label of convenience.

Tough-constructions, as illustrated in (1), first rose to prominence in Chomsky’s (1964) discussion of the contrast of (1) with (2). These sentences provide a textbook example of Chomsky’s observation that superficially similar constructions may have radically distinct underlying structures:

- (1) John is easy to please.
- (2) John is eager to please. (Zwart, 2012: 147)

In (1), the feature expressed by the adjective qualifies the action expressed by the verb, and the subject of the entire phrase is the object of the infinitive. However, in (2), the bearer of the feature expressed by the adjective and the agent of the action expressed by the infinitive verb phrase are identical. (Dušková, et al., 2009: 560)

Despite the advances that the various theoretical fields have seen over the past years, proposals for the proper analysis of structures such as (1) vary (Zwart, 2012: 147) and a satisfactory syntactic analysis remains “elusive”. (Hicks, 2009: 535) Mair (1989: 58) mentions that in the early stages of transformational grammar it was assumed that a *tough*-

¹ Also referred to as *tough*-movement (Mair, 1989: 57), object-to-subject raising (Biber, et al., 1999: 717) or *easy-to-please* constructions (Hicks, 2009: 535) due to the features they exhibit and the processes by which they are created.

construction as illustrated in (3) could be derived from sentence (4) by an optional syntactic rule that allows the transfer of certain constituents of the infinitival clause to the position of the subject in the matrix clause:

(3) The question is not easy to answer.

(4) It is not easy to answer the question.

In more precise words, it was supposed that the rule concerned with the *tough*-constructions enabled the raising of the direct object of the embedded infinitival clause into the matrix subject position of the *tough*-construction, replacing the expletive *it* of the extraposed construction:

(5) a. It is difficult [to believe him].

b. He_i is difficult [to believe t_i]. (Hicks, 2009: 540)

However, as Mair (1989: 85) points out, this analysis led to a variety of theory-internal problems and therefore most contemporary authors working within a generative transformational framework would consider (3) to be an example of object deletion in complement clauses (e.g. Lasnik and Fiengo, 1974; Schachter, 1981; Chomsky, 1981, who argues that “both the movement and the deletion analyses contain partial truths.”)

The most notable *tough*-construction analysis remains the one of Chomsky (1971, 1980, 1981), which includes a null operator structure. The details of this structure are illustrated in (6):

(6) a. Oral presentations_i can be [_{AP} tough [_S Op_i [PRO to give t_i]]].

b. The rush hour traffic_i was [_{NP} a nightmare [_S Op_i [PRO to drive in t_i]]].

In Chomsky’s theory the NP (*oral presentations* in (6a) and *rush hour traffic* in (6b)) is “base-generated as the subject of the *tough*-predicate, which is co-indexed with the null operator and the trace element.” (Pytlyk, 2011: 250)

The prototypical *tough*-construction, as illustrated in (7) below, finally came to be characterized by “an apparently ‘missing’ object in the embedded infinitival clause, obligatory interpreted as co-referential with the matrix subject.”

(7) Linguists are tough to please. (Hicks, 2009: 535)

The transposition of the NP complementing the infinitive verb phrase is also possible when the NP is a part of a PP, whether in the role of an object (8a) or an adverb (8b):

- (8) a. Your journal is a pleasure to write for.
 b. This room is pleasant to work in. (Dušková, et al., 2009: 543)

However, the missing element does not necessarily have to be an NP in the role of a direct or prepositional object. Huddleston & Pullum (2002: 1245) give examples that further illustrate the range of possibilities of these constructions:²

- (9) a. That he would do such a thing is hard [to believe ____]. [clausal internal comp]
 b. Pat is easy [to be intimidated by ____]. [comp of passive *by*]
 c. ?An ideal husband is not easy [to be ____]. [predicative comp]
 d. *You won't find these kinds easy [to teach ____ Greek]. [indirect object]

As Huddleston & Pullum (2002: 1245) show in (9a), the subject of the *tough*-construction can also be a clause, not only a NP. The missing NP can also be object of the preposition *by* in the passive (9b) (though examples of this kind are very rare), examples with the gap in predicate complement function (9c) are then marginal at best. Interestingly, an indirect object function (9d) is excluded as ungrammatical.

Biber, et al. (1999: 717) also make note that “the logical subject of the main clause is the entire object + *to*-clause:”

- (10) Without those powers, computer hacking would be almost impossible to prove.

This sentence does not imply that computer hacking would be almost impossible; rather, “the whole proposition of the *to*-dependent clause is the implied subject:”

- (11) To prove computer hacking would be almost impossible.

The subjects of *tough*-constructions appear to exclude an existential, i.e. indefinite reading, but to include a generic one (Miki, 2000: 258); they do not allow therefore any indefinite clause elements (e.g. *someone*) in the position of a subject. However, in some cases these indefinite elements are acceptable, given the generic interpretation to bare plural subjects:

² The hollow non-finite clause is enclosed in brackets, with the site of missing NP, the gap, shown [...] by “____”, and the antecedent that determines its interpretation is underlined.

- (12) a. *(A man / Someone) would be easy to kill with a stick like that.
b. Men would be easy to kill with a stick like that.

Miki further explains in the conclusion of her paper that “as a subject of *tough*-constructions, definite nouns, and not indefinite elements are possible. However, an indefinite noun is possible as a subject in *tough*-construction if it is construed definitely or generically and not indefinitely. A bare plural noun can only be interpreted generically.”

These findings agree with the observations already made by Mair (1989: 67), who also claims that this generalization, i.e. the statement that subjects of *tough*-constructions cannot be referential and indefinite, “does not cover all the relevant facts and simplifies some.” Giving the following illustrative examples, he notes a possibility of fronting of otherwise referential-indefinite noun phrase:

- (13) a. John was a delight to talk to.
b. *Someone interesting was a delight to talk to.

The proper name *John* of (11a), having the unique definite reference, does not cause any problems when fronted. On the other hand, if the noun phrase of (13b), *someone interesting*, is used in the generic sense (meaning *interesting people*), fronting is also possible:

- (14) Of course, someone interesting is always a delight to talk to.

Takami (1996: 96) further hypothesizes a “characterization condition for the *tough*-construction” – the matrix subject of the *tough*-construction is characterized by the rest of the sentence; otherwise, it is found unacceptable, or marginal at best. This consideration can explain the unacceptability of the following example:

- (15) *Friends are dangerous to meet in New York.

Takami claims that from such a statement we cannot “infer anything as to what friends are [...], such a statement could only be considered as a characterization of New York, not of friends, and therefore the following *tough*-construction is acceptable:”

- (16) New York is dangerous to meet friends in. (Takami, 1996: 95)

In relation to the above discussed genericity of the *tough*-constructions’ subjects, Miki (2000: 261) elaborates on the phenomenon of acceptability of phrases referring to a point of time in the past (e.g. *yesterday*), the occurrence of which is not coherent with genericity. In addition,

“the acceptability of such *tough*-constructions in the past depends on the properties of the subject:”

- (17) a. The book was easy to sell **yesterday**.
b. *The picture by Yamagata Hiro was easy to sell **yesterday**.

The former sentence, despite not fulfilling the demand for genericity in *tough*-constructions as it contains an expression referring to a specific time, is grammatical. Miki (2000: 263) argues that “the interpretation of this sentence refers not to a specific or unique event but to the several indefinite events over the time.” More precisely, she sees the interpretation of *yesterday* in (17a) as ambiguous and proposes two different readings of the expression. The first reading of *yesterday* being “*for yesterday*” as in *people could sell books easily “for yesterday”*, the other possible reading being “*until yesterday*” as in *the book has been easy to sell until yesterday, but today it will be more difficult*. Furthermore, in both interpretations of (17a) is *the book* interpreted “as if it were a plural noun, ‘books with this title – but not the same book’”. That enables [us] to have an iterative reading of the event expressed in the infinitive of *tough*-constructions.”

Concerning the supposed impossibility of non-finite perfect forms (*have* + past participle), which is attributed to the syntactic structure of *tough*-constructions³, Miki (2000: 262) argues that some *tough*-constructions cannot include non-finite perfect form in the complement while others can:

- (18) a. *These books (were / are) easy to have sold **yesterday**.
b. These books were easy to have sold **by seven o’clock**.

Even if we read (18a) as *I now think books of this kind are easy to sell, which I did not realize when I sold some yesterday* is this sentence incorrect, whereas (18b) with the expression *by seven o’clock* instead of *yesterday* in (18a) is a grammatical sentence. This is possible due to the fact that *by*-phrases refer to a time which something happens at or before, which does not indicate such a specific time of action as, for instance, *at seven o’clock*. (Miki, 2000: 265) Furthermore, there is also no problem when the complement expresses the state as follows:

- (19) a. Tokyo is tough to have lived in **for a long time**.
b. English was easy for me to have studied **since childhood**.

³ For more details on this argument see Miki (2000).

These expressions, formerly regarded as ungrammatical (Jones, 1991), are, according to Miki, acceptable and grammatical. Her findings lead her to a conclusion that the non-finite perfect forms in *tough*-constructions express not the tense, but rather the aspect, so they are not compatible with other expressions referring to a particular point in time (e.g. *at 7 o'clock*). In other words, these facts show that “the complements of *tough*-constructions express events related to previous situation in the past or habitual state ‘over a period’ of time rather than a specific event in the past.” (Miki, 2000: 266)

2.2. *Tough*-predicates

A prototypical *tough*-predicate in *tough*-constructions can be “an adjective, a noun, or a verb that:

- a) selects a *to*-infinitival complement (Rosenbaum, 1967; Bresnan, 1971; Postal, 1971; Lasnik & Fiengo, 1974; Chomsky, 1977, 1980; Aniya, 1998; Culicover & Jackendoff, 2005);
- b) has an object gap that is referentially dependent on the matrix subject and exhibits long-distance dependencies (Chomsky, 1977; Hukari & Levine, 1987; Aniya, 1998; Dalrymple & King, 2000; Culicover & Jackendoff, 2005);
- c) expresses a relationship between an inherent/permanent property of the matrix subject and the event represented in the embedded complement (Ross, 1986; Kim, 1996; Aniya, 1998; and
- d) assigns an ‘experiencer’ θ -role, which is either over or covert (Bresnan, 1971; Lasnik & Fiengo, 1974; Pesetsky, 1987; Wilder, 1991; Kim, 1996; Aniya, 1998).” (Pytlyk, 2011: 250)

2.2.1. Adjectival predicates

Tough-predicates, i.e. the subject complements of *tough*-constructions are typically adjectival. A sample of adjectives licensing these constructions is given in (20), adjectives in (20a) having to do with the ease or difficulty of the situation described in the infinitival clause of the *tough*-construction or with one’s emotional attitudes in it; adjectives in (20b) being, according to Huddleston & Pullum (2002: 1247), semantically and syntactically less homogeneous and although they do occur in *tough*-constructions (e.g. *The document is ready*

to sign.), they do not allow extraposition with *it* (**It is ready to sign the document.*) or infinitival clause in role of a subject (**To sign the document is ready.*) as opposed to adjectives in (20a):

- (20) a. awkward bad boring convenient cumbersome
 dangerous depressing desirable difficult dreadful
 easy embarrassing essential exciting expensive
 fashionable fine good hard ideal
 impossible instructive interesting nice odd
 painful pleasant safe simple tedious
 ticklish tough tricky useful wonderful
- b. available beautiful fit free frosty
 homely pretty ready soft suitable

(Huddleston & Pullum, 2002: 1246)

The representative adjectives given in Mair’s (1989: 58-59) and Biber, et al.’s (1999: 719) publications concur with the list given above. Mair’s research shows that *tough*-constructions are “found with only two of the semantic classes of adjectival predicates combining with infinitival subject clauses, namely predicates denoting degrees of ease and difficulty, and predicates expressing value judgments.” (Mair, 1989: 58) The adjectives *difficult*, *easy* and *hard* are notably frequent; the adjective *difficult* was the most frequent predicate of the *tough*-construction examples of the examined Survey corpus, followed by *easy*, *hard*, *impossible* and *interesting*. The three remaining classes of adjectival predicates combining with infinitival clauses – potential, frequency and necessity – cannot appear in *tough*-constructions:

- (21) *Mushrooms are possible to find at this time of year.
- (22) *Mushrooms are unusual to find at this time of year.
- (23) *Mushrooms are essential to eat at this time of year. (Mair, 1989: 59)

Interestingly, Mair (1989: 59-60) and Huddleston & Pullum (2002: 1246-1247) note that the adjective *impossible* belongs to the group of acceptable adjectival predicates, while the adjective *possible* does not:

- (24) That claim is impossible / *possible to substantiate. (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002: 1247)

However, while the sentence ‘*John is possible to live with’ sounds quite odd, sentences such as ‘John is barely possible to live with’ or ‘If Tony were possible to live with I’d live with him’ sound almost natural. (Mair, 1989: 59) As Huddleston & Pullum note, PPs with similar meanings are also occasionally found:

- (25) The temptation was beyond his capacity to resist. (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002: 1247)

Mair (1989: 59) suggests that the acceptability of such sentences is “parasitic, depending on wholesale conceptual substitution (‘barely possible being used as the equivalent of ‘extremely difficult’, a clear *tough*-movement predicate) or echoing an assumption left unexpressed (‘...but he is impossible to live with’).”

Furthermore, as said above, adjectives denoting the frequency or distribution of events, such as *rare*, *common* and *unusual*, are also judged as being ungrammatical in *tough*-constructions, as in:

- (26) They are (rare / odd) to (find / loose). (Quirk, et al., 1985: 1394)

However, Fleisher (2015) shows that there are, in fact, many instances of *rare*-class adjectives in perfectly grammatical attestations of *tough*-constructions, as in:

- (27) That kind of straight-up statement is exceedingly rare for a politician to make. (Fleisher, 2015: 75)

He argues that structures like (27) are indeed *tough*-constructions as they, for instance, allow impersonal paraphrases (29b) that are typical of prototypical *tough*-constructions (28b):

- (28) a. John is tough to love.
b. It is tough to love John.

- (29) a. That kind of straight-up statement is exceedingly rare for a politician to make.
- b. It is rare for a politician to make that kind of straight-up statement. (Fleisher, 2015: 76)

2.2.2. Nominal predicates

Nominal predicates of *tough*-constructions, as in an illustrative sentence ‘Elizabeth is a pleasure to teach’ (Quirk, et al., 1985: 1394), are comparatively rare. Huddleston & Pullum (2002: 1246) give a list of nouns licencing these constructions, a number of which belong to the colloquial style:

- | | | | | | |
|------|-----------|--------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| (30) | bastard | bitch | breeze | cinch | delight |
| | devil | doddle | dream | embarrassment | joy |
| | nightmare | pain | piece of cake | pig | pleasure |

Mair (1989: 59-60), although admitting that is it impossible to draw a precise line of division between instances of *tough*-constructions with nominal predicates and those of pseudo-*tough* constructions⁴, adds four nouns to the list: *sod*, *fun*, *godsend* and *joy*, as in:

- (31) a. It’s an absolute sod to get sorted out. (Mair, 1989: 60)
- b. Margaret is fun (for us) to be with. (Quirk, et al., 1985: 1394)
- c. It was a godsend to hear. (Mair, 1989: 60)

2.2.3. Verbal predicates

Verbal predicates are attested to be even rarer, but not non-existent. There are five verbs that take *to*-infinitivals as internal complements – the verb *be* and the transitive verbs *cost*, *need*, *require* and *take*:

⁴ Pseudo-*tough* constructions share in their structure the characteristic gap in the infinitival complement clause that is typical of *tough*-constructions, but the adjective which would in *tough*-construction serve as a subject complement modifies the noun instead:
It’s not an easy question to answer. (Mair, 1989: 57-58)

- (32) a. The decision is for you to make. (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002: 1250)
- b. The flat must have cost vast sums of money to furnish. (Dušková, et al., 2009: 543)
- c. The dispute needed/required a great deal of tact to resolve. (Huddleston & Pullum, 2002: 1250)
- d. This'll take so long to decipher. (Mair, 1989: 60)

Interestingly, the verb *take*, as illustrated in (35d), was the only matrix predicate actually attested in the corpus examined by Mair (1989: 60).

Tough-constructions with *be* usually have *for* + subject, but there are also exceptional instances of subjectless ones, as attested by Huddleston & Pullum (2002: 1250):

- (33) a. The house is to let.
- b. You are to blame.

However, these are restricted to the verb *let*, possibly also to *rent*, and *blame*:

- (34) a. *The house is to sell.
- b. *You are to criticise.

Additionally, unlike “emotive” adjectives and nouns, “emotive and evaluative verbs do not occur in *tough*-movement constructions – not even those which readily combine with infinitival subject clauses:” (Mair, 1989: 61)

- (35) a. *This sudden change in your behaviour pleases me to see.
- b. *Such things galled him to hear.

Finally, Pytlyk (2011: 262) adds the colloquial verbs *suck*, *bite* and *blow* to the list of verbal predicates of *tough*-constructions:

- (36) a. This floor sucks to clean.
- b. Wet snow bites to shovel.
- c. John blows to work with.

Interestingly, these verbs are semantically and stylistically similar to the nominal *tough*-predicates as they are informal and express strong emotional judgment.

2.3. Functional analysis

Functional analyses of *tough*-constructions often treat these constructions in relation to their ability to function “as a means of ‘information packaging’, of appropriately distributing given and new information in an utterance.” (Mair, 1989: 66) For instance, Comrie (1981: 71) notes “a preference to make the topic subject wherever possible, thus leading to correlation between subject and topic.” (Mair, 1989: 67) He claims that when asked a question ‘What do you think of these problems?’ the speaker is most likely to reply ‘These problems / They are easy to solve’ than ‘It’s easy to solve these problems / them’. Similar views have been held by other authors and *tough*-constructions have been even referred to as a “topic-creating mechanism.” (Mair, 1989: 67)

Mair’s (1989: 66-72) own analysis shows that the fronting of the information that is given within the discourse in order to create “good topics” is truly an important function of these constructions, but not the only one. He claims that the functional account of *tough*-construction proceeds along three lines. First, as a “‘topic-creating mechanism’, strengthening the ties of syntactic cohesion across sentences,” as illustrated in (36):

- (37) These nerves follow the same plan as those of gnathestomes but **they are difficult to make out by dissection in the lamprey.**

Example (37) illustrates a simple mode of thematic progression with the noun phrase *these nerves* denoting the given information. The pronoun *they* in the second clause does so as well and the choice of a *tough*-construction over some other alternative structure enables the writer to place it in a position that is normally reserved for given information.

Secondly, the foremost stylistic advantage of *tough*-constructions is that their use frequently leads to “structural simplification within sentences, particularly complex ones.” This relates to the fact that *tough*-constructions can be “reanalysed as complex adjectival phrases, with concomitant shifts in meaning and stylistic emphasis.” (Mair, 1989: 71) Complex adjectival phrases, such as the one in (38) below, can be co-ordinated with simple predicative adjectives much more easily than paraphrases involving subject clauses, “because they provide a much tighter structural fit.”

- (38) If the oven door is closed after a meal has been cooked, the oven will probably still be warm after the meal has been eaten, and will be **easier to clean** than if allowed to become cold.

Additionally, what leads to a simplification of the structure is also desirable in terms of functional sentence perspective – the fronted item denotes given information. (Mair, 1989: 70)

Quirk, et al. (1985: 1394-1395) treat *tough*-constructions as instances of thematic fronting as they “permit a valuable range of sentence forms adjusting the development of communicative dynamism and the assignment of the end-focus as desired.” (Quirk, et al., 1985: 1394) The speaker can, for instance, rearrange different clause elements of a sentence ‘It is difficult to pour cream out of this jug’ according to where he or she wishes to place focus and create two different structures as follows:

- (39) a. This jug is difficult to pour cream out of.
b. Cream is difficult to pour out of this jug.

Quirk, et al., (1985) explain that while “the former implies difficulties with the jug (perhaps its spout is too narrow); the latter implies difficulties with cream (perhaps it is too thick).” (Quirk, et al., 1985: 1394)

Biber, et al. (1999: 728-731) in their corpus-based analysis discuss the factors influencing the choice between *tough*-constructions and extraposition, the three major factors being register, grammatical and information packaging and personal style. Their results show that “object-to-subject raising is slightly more common than extraposition for *to*-clauses controlled by adjectival predicates of ease and difficulty.” (Biber, et al., 1999: 728) Furthermore, in nearly all the structures with *tough*-constructions the implied object presents contextually given information and thus provides an anaphoric link to the immediately preceding discourse, the raised noun phrase being typically a pronoun or a simple noun phrase without modifiers. However, the usage of *tough*-constructions appears to especially be subject to individual preference. (Biber, et al., 1999: 731)

3. MATERIAL AND METHOD

The analytical part of this thesis examines one hundred Czech translation counterparts of English *tough*-constructions. The individual examples were extracted from the InterCorp, a parallel Czech-English corpus, which can be accessed through the web pages of the Czech National Corpus (<https://kontext.korpus.cz>). For the purpose of this thesis, the examples of the examined corpus are limited to the *tough*-constructions containing the four most frequent adjectival *tough*-predicates as attested by Mair's corpus-based research (1989): *difficult*, *easy*, *hard* and *impossible*. In order to find such examples, each one of the four adjectives immediately followed by the infinitive particle *to* was entered and in all four cases the first twenty five examples fitting the criteria of a *tough*-construction were selected. Additionally, the search was limited to the *tough*-constructions occurring in fiction written in English language only.

The syntactic structure of each one of the four groups of *tough*-constructions containing the four different adjectival *tough*-predicates is examined individually at first. After determining the most frequent syntactic structure of the Czech translation counterparts, we analyse the remaining structures in order from the most frequent ones to the rarer ones and subsequently provide a final overview of the syntactic analysis at the very end of the first analytical part.

We then examine the realization and Czech translation of the English infinitival complement and analyse the Czech counterparts of the English adjectival *tough*-predicates. Additionally, we briefly discuss the temporal reference and the analytical part is concluded with a short analysis of the functional sentence perspective of the Czech equivalent of the English subject.

Throughout the analysis the examples are given with the examined features of the *tough*-constructions and their Czech counterparts marked in bold letters, for quick orientation and complete overview, tables are inserted at the beginnings of each analytical part.

4. ANALYSIS

The examined English *tough*-constructions are primarily (86%) independent main clauses, the rest (14%) are then dependent subordinate clauses, parts of complex sentences. Additionally, 11% of the *tough*-constructions are parts of coordinated constructions – in such instances the sentence has one subject, the features of which are described by means of several structures, one of them being a *tough*-construction (e.g. *The kid was impassive, hard to read, preoccupied with an invisible spot somewhere on the floor.*). The subjects of *tough*-constructions are primarily definite (90%) and realized by nouns (58%), pronouns (38%) and clauses (4%). Furthermore, the “missing objects” co-referential with the matrix subjects are mostly direct (81%), the rest then prepositional (19%).

4.1. Syntactic analysis

The following part is dedicated to close examination of the syntactic structure of the individual Czech translation counterparts of the English *tough*-constructions. In order to observe possible translation tendencies relating to the different adjectival *tough*-predicates, each one of the four groups of *tough*-constructions containing the four most frequent adjectival *tough*-predicates (Mair, 1989) is examined individually at first (4.1.1. – 4.1.4.). The realization of the verbs and translation of the *tough*-predicates are not paid close attention to as these matters are discussed separately in the following parts of this thesis (4.2., 4.3.).

4.1.1. Czech counterparts of English *tough*-constructions containing the adjectival *tough*-predicate *difficult*

This part closely examines the syntactic structure of the Czech translation counterparts of English *tough*-constructions containing the adjectival *tough*-predicate *difficult*. The following table represents the number of different Czech counterparts to the twenty five instances of these *tough*-constructions extracted from the corpus given in both absolute numbers and percentage ratios:

Table 1: Czech counterparts to the English *tough*-constructions containing the adjectival *tough*-predicate *difficult*

| Czech counterpart | No. | % |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| Infinitival subject + copular verb <i>to be</i> + adjectival complement | 8 | 32% |
| Nominal subject + lexical verb + object | 5 | 20% |
| Nominal subject + copular verb <i>to be</i> + adjectival complement | 5 | 20% |
| Nominal subject + reflexive passive construction | 3 | 12% |
| Subjectless clause | 3 | 12% |
| Infinitival subject + lexical verb + object | 1 | 4% |
| Total | 25 | 100% |

Czech clauses containing the infinitival subject followed by a copular verb *to be* and a qualifying adjective are the most frequent translation counterparts to the English *tough*-constructions with the *tough*-predicate *difficult*:

- (1) **They were**, if it came to it, **difficult to daunt or kill**.

Když na to přišlo, **nebylo jednoduché je zastrašit nebo zabít**.

The subject of this type of sentences is by Grepl, et al. (2008: 416) referred to as situational subject realized by infinitival construction that replaces a nominal content subordinate clause in the function of a subject. The infinitival complement of the *tough*-construction is thus transformed into a subject; the verbal predicate, in this case a copular verb, then takes a form identical with the Czech third person singular neuter pronoun, “ono”. The *tough*-predicate is then realized as a qualifying adjective functioning as a complement of the copula denoting the difficulty of the situation described.

The second most frequent Czech translation counterparts to these constructions are sentences of the S-V-O type containing a subject, lexical verb in an active voice and an object:

- (2) The parchment was damp, and enormous teardrops had smudged the ink so badly in places that **it was** very **difficult to read**.

Pergamen byl zavlhlý a inkoust byl místy natolik rozmazaný obrovskými slzami, že **text přečetl jen s velkými obtížemi**.

The “missing object” co-referential with the matrix subject of the *tough*-construction is then transformed into a direct object of the clause and the adjective realized by means of an adverb – in this instance functioning as an adverbial of manner.

One particular instance also translates the *tough*-construction by means of a subject and a complex verbal predicate:

- (3) “**It’s difficult to explain.**”
„**To se dá jen těžko vysvětlit.**“

Grepl, et al. (2008: 533) refer to these sentences as to “sentences with the meaning of necessity, possibility (ability) and intention.” The means of expressing these connotations in the Czech language are mainly lexical and they are divided into two groups according to their syntactic behaviour – expressions called “modal predicators”, which are primarily used with subordinate sentences, and “modal modifiers”, which are used exclusively with infinitive verbs. The lexical expression *dát se*, as in (3), is a part of the latter group, i.e. an expression used exclusively with the infinitive of the predicate, thus constructing a complex clause element within the clause. (Grepl, et al., 2008: 533-534) This modal expression together with the adverbial *těžko* pass the information about the possibility of the action described to the reader or to the hearer.

The third most frequent Czech translation counterparts are of S-V-C_s type as they include a subject and a copular verb *to be* accompanied by a qualifying adjective:

- (4) When they had completed their own manoeuvre, **Rama was** two thousand kilometres away, and **difficult to see** against the glare of the sun.

Když dokončili svůj vlastní manévr, **Ráma** se vzdálil na dvě stě tisíc kilometrů a proti sluneční záři **byl** už **těžko patrný**.

In these instances, the Czech subjects form syntactic and semantic equivalents to their English counterparts, the adjectival *tough*-predicate is realized by a corresponding adverb of manner. The infinitival complement of the *tough*-construction then takes a form of a qualifying adjectival complement of the copular verb and creates a semantic equivalent of its English counterpart – the copular verb and its complement *byl patrný* can be paraphrased as *byl vidět*, etc.

The fourth most frequent Czech translation counterparts of these constructions are translated by means of what Grepl, et al. (2008: 324) refer to as reflexive passive construction:

- (5) They were wretched, flimsy things, but **cooking-pots** of any kind **were** always **difficult to get**.

Byly to nicotné krámy, ale **nádobí se těžko shánělo**.

In the case of the reflexive passive construction, the verb is accompanied by the reflexive particle *se*, the function of which is impersonal, “deagent” (Grepl, et al., 2008: 324) and takes a third person singular form, the adjective is then in this instance translated as an adverbial of manner.

The fifth most frequent Czech translation counterparts have the form of a subjectless sentence:

- (6) **The human skin is** fiendishly **difficult to deal with** if your standards are as high as Mr Gubm’s.

S lidskou kůží se pracuje nesmírně **obtížně**, když máte tak vysoké nároky.

This type of sentence does not require a subject and the verbal predicate is in most cases of third person singular neuter form, expressing only the grammatical categories of time and mood. (Grepl, et al., 2008: 388) Dušková, et al. (2009: 372-373) further divide subjectless sentences into several subcategories, one of them being the type illustrated in (6) referred to as the dispositional type of a subjectless sentence. As they state, these Czech sentences containing a reflexive form of a verb – *pracuje se* – and an object are very often translation counterparts to the English *tough*-constructions. The original subject of the *tough*-construction then becomes a prepositional object of its Czech translation counterpart; the adjectival *tough*-predicate takes the form of a corresponding adverb, expressing the difficulty of the action described.

Finally, one instance translates the English *tough*-construction by means of an aforementioned situational subject realized by an infinitival construction followed by not a copular verb as in all other instances, but a lexical verb and a direct object:

- (7) Her **mind was** less **difficult to develop**.

Proniknout za její duševní obzor nevyžadovalo takové úsilí.

The subject of the Czech clause is an infinitival semantic equivalent of the infinitival complement of the English *tough*-construction accompanied by an adverbial of place, an equivalent of the original subject of the English clause. The verb then takes a form of a third person singular neuter and requires a direct object – together the verb and its object, *nevyžadovat úsilí*, create a counterpart to the copular verb and the *tough*-predicate of the English *tough*-construction, *to be less difficult*.

4.1.2. Czech counterparts of English *tough*-constructions containing the adjectival *tough*-predicate *easy*

The following part focuses on the syntactic structure of the Czech translation counterparts of the English *tough*-constructions containing the adjectival *tough*-predicate *easy*. The table below represents the number of occurrences of different Czech counterparts to the twenty five instances of the original constructions.

Table 2: Czech counterparts of English *tough*-constructions containing the adjectival *tough*-predicate *easy*

| Czech counterpart | No. | % |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| Nominal subject + lexical verb + object | 11 | 44% |
| Infinitival subject + copular verb <i>to be</i> + adjectival complement | 4 | 16% |
| Nominal subject + copular verb <i>to be</i> + adjectival complement | 4 | 16% |
| Subjectless clause | 2 | 8% |
| Nominal subject + reflexive passive construction | 2 | 8% |
| Nominal subject + copular verb <i>to be</i> + deverbal noun | 2 | 8% |
| Total | 25 | 100% |

As seen above in Table 2, the diverse Czech translation counterparts differ from those presented and examined in the previous part of the analytic part of this thesis only in their frequency, the most frequent Czech translation counterparts of these constructions being of the S-V-O type with an adverb:

- (8) **The first was easy to find**, but the second took him a while.

První našel docela snadno, ale druhá mu zabrala víc času.

The second most frequent Czech counterparts are the constructions containing the situational object realized by infinitival construction, followed by a copular verb *to be* and its adjectival complement:

- (9) But **friendships were not easy to cultivate.**

Nebylo však jednoduché pěstovat přátelství.

Czech counterparts of the S-V-C_s type with a subject followed by a copular verb *to be* and an adjectival subject complement represent the third most frequent translation counterparts:

- (10) With binoculars, I could see the chimney, and **the signals were easy to collect.**

Dalekohledem jsem viděl na komín, příjem signálů byl dobrý.

These Czech translation counterparts are then followed by subjectless clauses of the dispositional type containing adverbials of manner, illustrated by (11), reflexive passive constructions with adverbials of manner, as in (12), and finally by subordinate nominal content clause functioning as an object and introduced by Czech conjunction *že*, as illustrated in (13):

- (11) **Sam Forrest was very easy to talk to.**

Se Samem Forrestem se tak snadno rozmlouvalo.

- (12) “**Women willing to work in a hot laundry aren’t so easy to come by** anymore,” Ollie told his wife, “what with the war and all.”

„Ženská, co půjde dělat do prádelny, se těžko najde, když si teď za války může zaměstnání vybírat,” postěžoval si jednou Mildred.

- (13) **She found him easy to talk to.**

Zjistila, že se s ním ráda baví.

In case of example (13), it is interesting to point out that the English *tough*-construction is embedded into the clause and does not stand alone (cf. *he is easy to talk to*) as its subject becomes an object of the main clause and *easy to talk to* functions as an object complement. The original structure then influences the Czech translation – the subordinate nominal content clause functioning as an object is dependent on the main clause.

As these syntactic constructions were discussed in detail in the previous part of this thesis, let us only mention some of the interesting observations concerning Czech translation counterparts of English *tough*-construction containing the adjectival *tough*-predicate *easy*.

In comparison with the *tough*-constructions containing the adjectival *tough*-predicate *difficult*, the *tough*-constructions with the adjectival *tough*-predicate *easy* are much more frequently translated by means of syntactic constructions containing lexical means of expressing modality which are accompanied exclusively with the infinitive of the verbal predicate. These lexical means are collectively called “modal modifiers” (Grepš, et al, 2008: 533) and together with the infinitive form a complex clause element. There are seven instances of such modal modifiers, six of which express the (im)possibility of realization of a certain action. Two of these instances contain the modal expression *dá se* followed by the infinitive and an adverb of manner, and the English subject translated as a corresponding Czech one, as illustrated in (14):

- (14) Mark’s was probably the most difficult personality it was ever Coleman’s lot to try, not to understand – **the resentments were** all too **easy to understand** – but to grapple with.

Mark byl pravděpodobně nejproblematictější osobnost, jakou bylo Colemanovi kdy souzeno ne pochopit – ty **projevy zášti se daly pochopit** až příliš **snadno** –, ale vychovávat.

Other two Czech translation counterparts are according to Grepš, et al. (2008: 542) instances of colloquial constructions containing the verb *to be* + verbal noun in dative case preceded by preposition *k*:

- (15) He happened to be missing half of his right ear, so **he was easy to identify**.

Chyběla mu polovina pravého ucha, takže **byl snadno k poznání**.

The verbal noun then stands for the infinitival complement of the English *tough*-construction, the adjective is then translated as a corresponding adverb, thus adding the adverbial of manner denoting the difficulty of the action described.

One Czech translation counterpart has a modal verb in its structure (16), followed by an infinitive and adverbial of manner, with the English subject transformed into a Czech direct

object. The last one of the structures expressing the (im)possibility is then a subjectless sentence containing a modal expression *lze* (17):

- (16) Unfortunately **that's** all too **easy to get hold of**.

Tu bohužel **můžete získat snadno**.

- (17) “**Is it easy to get to?**”

„**Lze se k němu dostat?**“

Finally, the seventh structure containing a modal expression passes the information about the presupposed ability of the agent to reach a certain state, goal. There is only one instance of such modality, a Czech translation counterpart containing “a modal verb in a broader sense” (Grepl, et al., 2008: 543) – *dovést*, accompanied by an infinitive and adverbial of manner:

- (18) To those who appreciate the extraordinary irascibility of the Invisible Man, **the rest of the encounter will be easy to imagine**.

Ti, kdo plně chápou mimořádnou popudlivost Neviditelného, **dovedou si snadno představit dohru**, jíž tato srážka skončila.

4.1.3. Czech counterparts of English *tough*-constructions containing the adjectival *tough*-predicate *hard*

In this part we examine the syntactic structure of the Czech translation counterparts of the English *tough*-constructions containing the adjectival *tough*-predicate *hard*. The table below represents the number occurrence of different Czech counterparts to the twenty five instances of these *tough*-constructions extracted from the corpus.

Table 3: Czech counterparts of English *tough*-constructions containing the adjectival *tough*-predicate *hard*

| Czech counterpart | No. | % |
|---|-----|-----|
| Infinitival subject + copular verb <i>to be</i> + adjectival complement | 10 | 40% |
| Nominal subject + lexical verb + object | 6 | 24% |
| Nominal subject + copular verb <i>to be</i> + adjectival complement | 3 | 12% |
| Nominal subject + reflexive passive construction | 2 | 8% |

| | | |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| Subjectless clause | 1 | 4% |
| Infinitival subject + lexical verb + object | 1 | 4% |
| Nominal subject + copular verb <i>to be</i> + noun | 1 | 4% |
| Proverb (nominal subject + idiom in a form of a simile) | 1 | 4% |
| Total | 25 | 100% |

As seen above, the most frequent Czech translation counterparts are in almost half of the instances structures with situational subject realized by an infinitival construction, the copular verb *to be* and its adjectival complement:

- (20) Quite **a few** of them **were hard to find**, and there was hardly a queue or a flower at any of their tombs.

Dost z nich **bylo těžké najít** a u jejich náhrobků člověk sotva narazil na zástupy lidí nebo na květinu.

As this and other translation counterparts share their structures with syntactic structures previously analysed in the preceding parts, let us examine only the new and unusual Czech translation counterparts concerning these particular *tough*-constructions.

One of such exceptional instances is the translation of an English *tough*-construction by means of a copular verb *to be* and its nominal complement, a single noun:

- (21) For **meat was hard to come by**.

Vždyť **maso je vzácnost**.

The Czech counterpart of the English subject keeps its syntactic position as well as the copular verb in its finite form, whereas the adjectival *tough*-predicate and infinitival complement of the *tough*-construction are transformed into a single noun. The noun, categorized by Grepl, et al. (2008: 404) as evaluating nominal complement of the copular verb, forms a perfect semantic equivalent of the original. The choice of such translation counterpart was most likely influenced by the fact that the sentence is one of the verses of a rhymed song and thus rhyming as well as its metre and form had to be taken into consideration.

Another instance translates the *tough*-construction as a direct object preceded by a modifying adjective:

- (22) **The kid was** impassive, **hard to read**, preoccupied with an invisible spot somewhere on the floor.

Markova tvář měla zcela **neproniknutelný výraz**. Oči měl upřené k zemi, jako by na ní pozoroval nějakou neviditelnou skvrnu.

The clause is of S-V-O type with a subject, a lexical verb and a modified object, which together with the adjective once again stands for the *tough*-predicate and the infinitival complement.

Unique translation with a single instance of the hundred examples extracted from the corpus is the translation of a *tough*-construction by a proverb:

- (23) “In this business **they are** sometimes **hard to find**.”

„Přiznejme si, že v naší branži **je** podobných **klientů jako šafránu**.“

This structure is part of a subordinate nominal content clause in function of an object. The proverb then contains an adverbial of measure and intensity which is expressed by comparison in form of a simile *je toho jako šafránu*. (Grepl, et al., 2008: 457) These fixed similes are considered to be a subcategory of non-sentential idioms that “resemble the structure of the sentence, but fill some of its positions only in certain contexts.” (Grepl, et al., 2008: 72) This particular simile then serves as a perfect semantic equivalent to the original *tough*-construction due to its meaning *to be found rarely and in small amount*.

Additionally, two instances of Czech translation counterparts contain deverbal nouns in dative as complements of adjectives as illustrated below:

- (24) **The idea of a single Godhead** also being a Trinity **is hard to reconcile**, particularly for young Sammie, who’s not positive how many people he is himself.

Myšlenka jediného boha, který je zároveň Svatou trojicí, **je** velice **těžká k pochopení**, obzvlášť pro Sammieho, který nemá jasno v tom, z kolika jedinců se skládá on.

This clause is of S-V-C_s type as it contains a subject, a copular verb *to be* and an adjective accompanied by its complement. The adjectival complement has the form of deverbal noun in dative case preceded by a preposition *k* and creates a semantic counterpart to the original infinitival complement of the English *tough*-construction.

4.1.4. Czech counterparts of English *tough*-constructions containing the adjectival *tough*-predicate *impossible*

The next part analyses the syntactic structure of the Czech translation counterparts of the English *tough*-constructions containing the adjectival *tough*-predicate *impossible*, the number occurrence of which is represented in the table below:

Table 4: Czech counterparts of English *tough*-constructions containing the adjectival *tough*-predicate *impossible*

| Czech counterpart | No. | % |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| Infinitival subject + copular verb <i>to be</i> + adjectival complement | 9 | 36% |
| Subjectless sentence | 6 | 24% |
| Nominal subject + lexical verb + object | 4 | 16% |
| Nominal subject + copular verb <i>to be</i> + adjectival complement | 3 | 12% |
| Nominal subject + reflexive passive construction | 2 | 8% |
| Nominal subject + copular verb <i>to be</i> + deverbal noun complement | 1 | 4% |
| Total | 25 | 100% |

As seen above in Table 4, the most frequent means of translating these *tough*-constructions is by structures containing situational infinitival subject followed by a copular verb *to be* and its adjectival complement as in:

(25) “**A great worker is almost impossible to fire,**” Alfred said.

„**Dobrého dřiče je téměř nemožné vyhodit,**“ vedl Alfred dál svou.

Let us now look into some interesting observations and minor type Czech translation counterparts of these *tough*-constructions as most of the syntactic structures have been discussed in previous parts of the analytic part of this thesis.

We find one case of a rare structure described by Grepl, et al. (2008: 524) as a colloquial construction with the verb *to be* followed by verbal noun in dative case and preposition *k*:

- (26) And just as she predicted, **Briony had been** outside somewhere, sulking and **impossible to find**.

Přesně, jak předpovídala, toulala se rozmrzelá **Briony** někde venku a **nebyla k nalezení**.

These constructions are by Grepl, et al. (2008: 541-542) categorized as syntactic constructions expressing the (im)possibility of a certain action or situation described. In this instance, the Czech counterpart of the English subject stays in its position, whereas the rest of the *tough*-construction is transformed into a copular verb and its verbal noun complement creating the semantic equivalent of the *tough*-predicate and infinitival complement. The adjective itself is then left untranslated, which does not alter the meaning significantly, but its negation transfers to the verb.

Furthermore, one unprecedented instance of a Czech translation counterpart has the form of a question:

- (27) He could not even fall back on the pretence that he had come to borrow the dictionary, because in that case **Julia's presence was impossible to explain**.

Nemůže ani předstíral, že si přišel vypůjčit Slovník, protože **jak by vysvětlil Juliinu přítomnost?**

The clause is a nominal content clause of the dependent declarative type; its type is then of a rhetorical *wh*-question. Additionally, the mood of the clause is changed from declarative to present conditional. The subject of the English construction is transformed into a direct object, changing the infinitival complement of the *tough*-construction into a finite lexical verb conjugated according to its subject, a third person singular masculine. The adjectival *tough*-predicate is once again left untranslated; however, it is a question of the rhetorical type, the clause therefore means the opposite – *Juliinu přítomnost by nevysvětlil* – and the presence of a Czech translation counterpart of the adjective *impossible* is not necessarily required.

Finally, there is, similarly to constructions with the adjectival *tough*-predicate *easy*, much higher number of instances of syntactic structures containing one of the lexical modal modifiers. (Grepl, et al., 2008: 533) Out of nine instances of structures with such modifiers,

one contains a modal verb in its negative form (28), three negated modal expression *lze*, as illustrated in (29) below, and five negated modal expression *dá se*, as in (30):

- (28) But **any of these possibilities seemed impossible to believe.**

Ani jednomu však nemohli uvěřit.

- (29) “**The information** is hidden inside the chosen person, or Secret-Keeper, and **is** henceforth **impossible to find** – unless, of course, the Secret-Keeper chooses to divulge it.”

„Příslušná informace je skryta v duši zvoleného člověka, neboli Strážce tajemství, a **nelze ji odhalit** – pokud se ovšem Strážce tajemství nerozhodne ji někomu vyjevit.“

- (30) “**This place is impossible to heat or cool.**”

„**Tohle místo se nedá vyhřát topením ani vychladit klimatizací.**“

As seen above, unlike *tough*-constructions with the adjectival *tough*-predicate *easy*, the *tough*-predicate *impossible* is in all instances left untranslated as the impossibility of the action is expressed by means of negated forms of modal modifiers.

4.1.5. Final overview

The syntactic analysis shows that the Czech translation counterparts of *tough*-constructions containing four different adjectival *tough*-predicates follow five basic structural patterns of translation. The individual translation tendencies of the four groups of *tough*-constructions then differ only in their frequency. *Tough*-constructions with *tough*-predicates *difficult* and *hard* are most frequently translated as structures with situational infinitival subject followed by a copular verb *to be* and its adjectival complement; constructions with *tough*-predicate *easy* mostly follow the S-V-O pattern as they contain a subject, a lexical finite verb and an object; constructions with *tough*-predicate *impossible* tend to be translated as structures of S-V-Cs pattern with a subject, a copular verb *to be* and an adjectival complement. Additionally, rare syntactic structures can be found in each one of the four groups of Czech counterparts. The following table represents the number of different Czech counterparts to the one hundred

instances of these *tough*-constructions extracted from the corpus given in both absolute numbers and percentage ratios:

Table 5: Czech counterparts of English *tough*-constructions – a syntactic analysis

| Czech counterparts | No. | % |
|---|------------|-------------|
| Infinitival subject + copular verb <i>to be</i> + adjectival complement | 31 | 31% |
| Nominal subject + lexical verb + object | 27 | 27% |
| Nominal subject + copular verb <i>to be</i> + adjectival complement | 14 | 14% |
| Subjectless clause | 12 | 12% |
| Nominal subject + reflexive passive construction | 9 | 9% |
| Nominal subject + copular verb <i>to be</i> + deverbal noun complement | 3 | 3% |
| Infinitival subject + lexical verb + object | 2 | 2% |
| Subject + copular verb <i>to be</i> + noun complement | 1 | 1% |
| Proverb (nominal subject + idiom in a form of a simile) | 1 | 1% |
| Total | 100 | 100% |

The fact that most of the examined Czech translation counterparts contain a situational subject realized by the infinitive construction corresponds to Dušková, et al.'s (2009) finding that most Czech translators translate the alternative form of the English *tough*-construction, e.g. extraposed construction with *it*: *it is difficult to get on with him* „je těžké s ním vyjít“, (Dušková, et al., 2009: 410) as for instance illustrated in:

- (31) a. I spend a lot time staring at them, wondering why **they were so hard to see**.
b. I spend a lot time staring at them, wondering why **it is so hard to see them**.

Dlouho jsem jejich směrem upírala zrak a přemítala, proč **je tak těžké je zahlédnout**.

Furthermore, Dušková et al.'s second finding concerning Czech translation counterparts of English *tough*-constructions corresponds with the results as majority of the examined Czech subjectless clauses are of the dispositional type, i.e. containing the reflexive form of the verb and an object:

- (32) **Sam Forrest was very easy to talk to**.

Se Sammem Forrestem se tak snadno rozmlouvalo. (Dušková, et al., 2009: 372-373)

4.2. Czech counterparts of the English infinitival complements

The following part focuses on the Czech translation counterparts of the infinitival complement of the *tough*-constructions, as summarized in the table below:

Table 6: Czech counterparts of the English infinitival complements

| Czech counterparts | No. | % |
|---|------------|-------------|
| Situational subject realized by the infinitive | 32 | 32% |
| Finite verb | 17 | 17% |
| Infinitive following a modal modifier | 16 | 16% |
| Adjectival complement following a copular verb <i>to be</i> | 11 | 11% |
| Reflexive verb | 7 | 7% |
| Verb in a subjectless sentence | 6 | 6% |
| Deverbal noun complement of the copular verb <i>to be</i> | 3 | 3% |
| Subject | 2 | 2% |
| Adverb | 2 | 2% |
| Noun complement of the copular verb <i>to be</i> | 1 | 1% |
| Adjective | 1 | 1% |
| Proverb (nominal subject + idiom in a form of a simile) | 1 | 1% |
| Total | 100 | 100% |

As Table 6 shows, almost a third of the Czech translation counterparts of the English infinitival complements are the aforementioned situational subjects realized by infinitival constructions, as in:

(33) There came into it – but it was something hard **to describe**.

Něco se tam připletlo, ale dalo se to těžko **popsat**.

The infinitival complement of the *tough*-construction is thus transformed into an infinitival subject of the clause and the finite verb – in this case a modal expression *dá se*, (Grepel, et al.,

2008: 533) – takes the form of the third person singular neuter. In most of the instances the subject of the *tough*-construction is then realized as a direct object of the Czech counterpart.

The second most frequent way of translating these complements is to translate them as finite verbs. The verb is then a full lexical verb expressing all its grammatical categories and is accompanied by a subject added into the clause structure by the Czech translator and an object, a counterpart of the English subject:

- (34) “And if we are careful that will be hard **to find**.”

„A budeme-li opatrní, **nenajdou** ji lehce.“

Almost in the same number of instances is the Czech counterpart of the English infinitival complement a part of the complex clause element containing a modal modifier and an infinitive, the translation counterpart of the English infinitive. Such modal modifiers used exclusively with verbs in their infinitive form express the (im)possibility of realization of the action described. (Grepš, et al., 2008: 533) As in the previous instances, the English subject is transformed into an object of the Czech clause:

- (35) Unfortunately that’s all too easy **to get hold of**.

Tu bohužel můžete **získat** snadno.

A number of infinitival complements are transformed into corresponding Czech adjectives, as in:

- (36) And don’t forget, a large proportion of it was coins, which are both heavy and even more difficult **to exchange** in quantity than notes, once they are out of Norway.

Nezapomeňte taky, že v pytlích bylo hodně mincí, které jsou jednak těžké, jednak téměř **nesměnitelné**, jakmile opustí Norsko.

In such instances the Czech counterparts of the English subjects share their syntactic function, while the infinitival complements of the *tough*-constructions become adjectival complements of the copular verb *to be*, thus qualifying the nominal subject. The difficulty of the action described is realized by the negative form of the adjective, accompanied by an adverb of measure, which expresses the same information as the original *tough*-predicate does – although the coins are very difficult to exchange, it is not *entirely* impossible to do so.

Other infinitival complements are translated as verbs in passive voice accompanied by a Czech reflexive pronoun *se*, thus creating a reflexive passive construction, (Grepł, et al., 2008: 324) as in:

- (37) The drag of solitude was not easy **to overcome** and the hour he had spent in Madame Vacelles's company had not been disagreeable.

Přítěž osamělosti **se nepřekonávala** lehce a hodina, kterou strávil ve společnosti madame Vacelles nebyla nepříjemná.

Verbs in such constructions then take the form of a third person singular or plural according to the subject, a Czech equivalent of the English one. As opposed to verbs in active voice, the agent of the action is left unexpressed and the function of the reflexive pronoun *se* is “de-agentive”. (Grepł, et al., 2008: 324) The information about the difficulty of the action described is then expressed by the adverb of manner, *lehce*, modifying the verb.

In the case of a Czech subjectless sentence, the translation counterpart of the English infinitival complement is a verb expressing only the grammatical categories of time and mood. Such a verb has the form of the third person singular neuter and does not require a subject. (Grepł, et al., 2008: 388) The majority of the subjectless sentences are then of the “dispositional type with the reflexive form of the verb” mentioned by Dušková, et al. (2009: 372) as one of the frequent translation counterparts of *tough*-constructions, as in:

- (38) These sticky little wafers are quite difficult **to detach from your fingers and dispose of**.

A ty prťavé lepkavé oplatky se dost obtížně odtrhují od prstů a těžko **se jich zbavuje**.

Finally, let us examine some of the rare translation counterparts. Three instances of Czech structures translate the infinitival complement by means of a deverbal noun:

- (39) The Plymouth was always easy **to find** in supermarket parking lots.

Plymouth byl tak na parkovištích u samoobsluh vždycky **k nalezení**.

The translation counterpart in the form of a deverbal noun complements the copular verb *to be* and the subject. According to Grepł, et al. (2008: 542), such constructions contain deverbal nouns in dative case and a preposition *k* and are subsequently possible to paraphrase with

phrases containing a corresponding adjective, a modal verb, or another modal expression and thus expressing a possibility, e.g. *je nalezitelný / dá se nalézt / jde nalézt / je možné jej nalézt*, etc.

In two instances the infinitival complement is transformed into a subject of the whole clause, as illustrated by the instance below, in which the translator placed the semantic counterpart of the English infinitival complement, *život*, into the subject position, changing the original English subject into a post-modification:

- (40) “What I’m trying to say, I suppose, is that I might be difficult **to live with**.”

„Pokouším se vám vysvětlit, že **život** se mnou by nebyl snadný.“

Two Czech structures translate the infinitival complement as an adverb and employing and empty *it* as a subject, as in:

- (41) Of course, in the hands of teenagers these were difficult **to ensure**.

Samozřejmě pokud je motocykl v rukou mladíků, je to **s pojišťováním** obtížné.

There are also two instances in which both the infinitival complement as well as the adjectival *tough*-predicate translated are as a single word, the first being a noun (42), the second an adjective (43), both creating a perfect semantic counterpart of the whole original construction:

- (42) For meat was hard **to come by**.

Vždyť maso je dnes **vzácnost**.

- (43) The kid was impassive, hard **to read**, preoccupied with an invisible spot somewhere on the floor.

Markovat tvář měla zcela **neproniknutelný** výraz. Oči měl upřené k zemi, jako by ní pozoroval nějakou neviditelnou skvrnu.

Finally, one exceptional instance translates the adjectival *tough*-predicate and infinitival complement by means of the aforementioned Czech simile *být jako šafránu*:

- (44) “In this business they are sometimes hard **to find**.”

„Přiznejme si, že podobných klientů **je** v naší branži **jako šafránu**.“

The English subject is translated as a corresponding Czech subject and is further “modified” by an idiom in a form of a simile, categorized by Grepl, et al. (2008: 457) as an adverbial of measure and intensity. The simile then follows the fixed structure of a simile – comparandum, in this case *podobní klienti*, an entity characterized by the whole simile; relator *je*, an element giving the simile the form of a predicate; comparator *jako*, a comparison marker; and a comparatum, the entity to which is the noun compared to. (Grepl, et al., 2008: 87)

4.3. Czech counterparts of the English adjectival *tough*-predicates

Dušková, et al. (2009: 547) note the tendency to translate adjectival *tough*-predicates by means of a corresponding Czech adverb, or, in case of the Czech equivalent of the alternative English form of the *tough*-construction containing the situational object realized by the infinitive construction, the adjective becomes an adjectival complement of the copular verb *to be*. (Dušková, et al., 2009: 410) As seen below in Table 7, the realizations of the adjective by means of an adverb and a subject complement are by far the most frequent ones:

Table 7: Czech counterparts of English adjectival *tough*-predicates

| Czech counterparts | No. | % |
|--|------------|-------------|
| Adverb | 40 | 40% |
| Adjectival complement of the copular verb <i>to be</i> | 39 | 39% |
| Untranslated | 16 | 16% |
| Finite verb + object | 2 | 2% |
| Noun complement of the copular verb <i>to be</i> | 1 | 1% |
| Particle | 1 | 1% |
| Adjective | 1 | 1% |
| Total | 100 | 100% |

The majority of instances translate the original English adjectives by means of corresponding Czech adverbs, which then in thirty six cases function as adverbials of manner denoting the difficulty of the action or situation described:

- (45) “And good servants are so **hard** to come by, especially those you want to keep,” Reggie added.

„Dobré služebnictvo se **špatně** shání, zejména takové, které si chceš nechat nastálo,“ dodala Reggie.

Three instances of adverbials are then adverbials of measure, for instance two counterparts of the adjectival *tough*-predicate *hard* translated as Czech adverbs *sotva*, once again denoting the difficulty of the action described:

- (46) The bread was **hard** to cut and tasted of mould.

Chleba se dal **sotva** ukrojit a chutnal po plísni.

The one remaining instance is the aforementioned Czech counterpart of the adverbial of measure expressed by the comparison in a form of an idiomatic simile, (Grepl, et al., 2008: 457) which preserves the meaning of the original construction:

- (47) “In this business they are sometimes **hard** to find.”

„Přiznejme si, že v naší branži je podobných klientů **jako šafránu**.“

Similarly, nearly the same number of Czech counterparts translates the adjectives as subject complements following the copular verb *to be* in forms of corresponding qualifying adjectives, as in:

- (48) A program of deliberate self-adjustment which had lasted fifteen years was not **easy** to shake off suddenly.

Program vědomého přizpůsobování prostřednosti realizoval patnáct let a nebylo **snadné** náhle jej ze sebe setřást.

Furthermore, a quite high number of translations leave the adjectival *tough*-complement untranslated. However, similar to the instance (48), the absence of a direct translation equivalent does not lead to a shift in the meaning. Ten Czech structures contain either one of the modal modifiers (Grepl, et al., 2008: 533) – *(ne)lze* or *(ne)dá se* – or a modal verb *moci*, informing the reader or the hearer about the absence or the existence of conditions necessary for realization of a certain action. (Grepl, et al., 2008: 541) Additionally, in the majority of cases the affirmative form of a sentence changes into a negative one, as illustrated in (49):

- (49) Obsessively secret – exactly who they are is **impossible** to say.

Jsou posedlí tajemstvím – **nelze** přesně říci, kdo jsou.

By using the opposing form of the original sentence, the Czech sentence preserves the meaning without the need of an adverb denoting the difficulty of the action. On the other hand, as all of these ten structures containing the modal modifiers are counterparts to *tough*-constructions with the adjective *impossible*, the intensity of the expression of the impossibility to realize a certain action is rather lowered.

On the contrary, one instance leaving the adjectival *tough*-predicate untranslated seems to intensify the denoted difficulty:

- (50) But **he was easy to forget**, was Mr White.

Jenže jakmile pan Bílý sešel lidem z očí, **okamžitě na něj zapomínali**.

While the English construction leaves the possibility that although they tend to, not all the people forget Mr White, open, its Czech counterpart with added adverbial of time clearly expresses the swift and sudden process of forgetting him.

The remaining Czech counterparts leaving the adjectival *tough*-predicate untranslated transform, similarly to the constructions with modal modifiers discussed above, the form of a sentence from the original affirmative to a negative one, as in:

- (51) The restaurant was **hard** to forget.

Na takovou restauraci se **nezapomíná**.

Finally, let us examine the few rare translation counterparts. Two Czech constructions have finite verbs and their objects in their structures which create semantic counterparts to the original adjectival *tough*-predicate *difficult*:

- (52) Her mind was less **difficult** to develop.

Proniknout za její duševní obzor **nevyžadovalo** takové úsilí.

- (53) “But I only had one rapid glance, and that was **difficult** to get.”

„Ale jenom jsem se jednou podíval a i to mi **dalo** dost práce.“

The adjective in (52) is transformed into a phrase in which the object, *úsilí*, is the most important part of the whole semantic counterpart to the English adjective. The structure in (53) then translates the adjective by means of a phrase *dát práci*, transforming the *tough*-predicate into a direct object.

Only one of the Czech translation counterparts translates the whole *tough*-construction including the adjective *hard* by means of a noun complement of the copular verb *to be*:

- (54) For meat was **hard** to come by.

Vždyť maso je **vzácnost**.

The single noun creates a perfect semantic counterpart of the English construction meaning something rare, hardly occurring. (Červená, et al., 2007: 528)

Another Czech counterpart translates the English construction by means of a phrase *mít neproniknutelný výraz*:

- (55) Mark was impassive, **hard** to read, preoccupied with an invisible spot somewhere on the floor.

Markova tvář **měla neproniknutelný výraz**. Oči měl upřené k zemi, jako by na ní pozoroval nějakou neviditelnou skvrnu.

The phrase *mít [...] výraz*, often also found with the adjective *nečitelný*, stands for the whole *tough*-construction, the most important part of the Czech semantic equivalent being the adjective *neproniknutelný*, combining the semantics of the adjectival *tough*-predicate and the infinitival complement.

Finally, one instance contains a particle *ani* in its structure:

- (56) There were so many mountains that sometimes they were **impossible** to see, because they got in the way.

Některé z nich **ani** nebylo vidět, protože je zakrývaly ty hory, které byly blíž.

Although on the first look the Czech construction does not translate the adjectival *tough*-predicate *impossible*, the particle may be seen as its equivalent. *Ani*, a particle classified as intensifying or focusing, (Grepel, et al., 2008: 361) emphasizes the impossibility of the

realization of the action described in the Czech subjectless sentence and realized by the negative form of the verb.

4.4. Temporal reference of English *tough*-constructions and their Czech counterparts

The following part examines the time reference of individual English *tough*-constructions and their Czech translation counterparts, the numerical and percentual occurrence of which is represented in Table 8 below:

Table 8: Temporal reference of English *tough*-constructions and their Czech counterparts

| English <i>tough</i> -constructions | Czech counterparts | No. | % |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----|------|
| past simple | past simple | 55 | 55% |
| | present simple | 5 | 5% |
| present simple | present simple | 33 | 33% |
| | future | 2 | 2% |
| future | future | 4 | 4% |
| present/future | present/future | 1 | 1% |
| Total | | 100 | 100% |

As the table shows, more than half of the English *tough*-constructions refer to the past and most Czech translators preserve the original past reference of the verbs. However, some exceptions are to be found – there are five Czech translations employing the present tense instead. For instance, the present tense is used by a conscious choice of the translator in the source of one of the examples, J. R. R. Tolkien's song:

(57) For meat **was hard to come by**.

Vždyť maso **je** dnes **vzácnost**.

In another instance the translator employs the present tense when describing a scene imagined by one of the characters:

- (58) He stuck it into his mouth, **found it too hard to bite**, and crammed it into his ear.

Strčí ho do pusy, zjistí, že **na kousání je moc tvrdý**, a nacpe si ho do ucha.

As the sentence is preceded by *viděl, jak*, the translator disrupts his or her previous use of the past simple and starts to employ the present simple, perhaps in order to evoke the scene in the reader's mind as well, describing it as if it is happening in the real time (i.e. historic present).

Interestingly, not only the present tense but also the present conditional mood is used in the following Czech counterpart:

- (59) He could not even fall back on the pretence that he had come to borrow the dictionary, because in that case **Julia's presence was impossible to explain**.

Nemůže ani předstírat, že si přišel vypůjčit slovník, protože **jak by vysvětlil Juliinu přítomnost?**

Once again, the translator disrupts the continuous use of the past simple, in this case employing the present simple when translating the character's inner monologue.

Furthermore, the translators of the English *tough*-constructions referring to the present preserve their original temporal reference with two exceptions:

- (60) “**Women willing to work in a hot laundry aren't so easy to come by** anymore,” Ollie told his wife, “what with the war and all.”

„**Ženská, co půjde dělat do prádelny, se těžko najde**, když si teď za války může vybírat,“ postěžoval si jednou Mildred.

Unlike its English counterpart, the Czech construction employs the use of the future tense of the verb and seems to lower the possibility of finding such woman as opposed to the original construction. The future is given by the verb's aspect, just as in the case of the second exception:

- (61) “Yes, as gamekeeper **fresh air must be so difficult to come by**,” said Umbridge sweetly.

„No ano, jako hajný jistě **těžko přijdete na čerstvý vzduch**,“ řekla sladce Umbridgeová.

Finally, the temporal reference of the four *tough*-constructions employing the future tense of the verb does not alter.

There is only once instance left to examine as in our set of examples one conditional clause occurs:

- (62) “What I’m trying to say, I suppose, is that **I might be difficult to live with.**”

„Pokouším se vám vysvětlit, že **život se mnou by nebyl snadný.**“

Verbs of both English and Czech clauses take the form of the present conditional, which refers to the present or to the future, but from the immediately preceding context it is likely that both sentences refer to the hypothetical course of action of the future.

4.5. Functional sentence perspective of the Czech equivalent of the English subject

As mentioned in the final chapter of the theoretical part of this thesis (2.3.), Mair (1989: 67) in his discussion of the functional sentence perspective of *tough*-constructions points out that there is “a preference to make the topic subject wherever possible, thus leading to correlation between subject and topic”, as in:

- (63) She could even sense a few people, who were hardest of all – human minds were thinking so many thoughts all at the same time that **they were nearly impossible to locate.**

Vnímala dokonce i lidi – to bylo nejtěžší, protože v lidských hlavách byla taková spleť myšlenek, že **bylo téměř nemožné je sledovat.**

Subjects of the examined English *tough*-constructions are themes, i.e. parts of clauses about which some information is provided, as opposed to rhemes, i.e. what information is being said about them (Greppl, et al., 2008: 633) As the primary word order principle for the English language is the grammatical principle, subject and thus theme stand at the initial position of a typical English sentence following the S-V-O word order and the functional sentence perspective represents lesser power governing the syntactic structure. As opposed to English, functional sentence perspective principle represents the leading power in distributing the individual clause elements of a Czech sentence. (Dušková, et al., 2009: 519) However, the

Czech translation counterparts remain thematic with the exception of three examples which follow the linearity principle:

- (64) **What her father thought about Corecktall** was difficult to know.

Bylo těžké odhadnout, **co přesně si o Korektalu myslí otec.**

- (65) **Syme's fate** was not difficult to foresee.

Nebylo těžké předvídat **Symův osud.**

- (66) He could not even fall back on the pretence that he had come by to borrow the dictionary, because in that case **Julia's presence** was impossible to explain.

Nemůže ani předstírat, že si přišel vypůjčit Slovník, protože jak by vysvětlil **Juliinu přítomnost?**

Interestingly, (64) is an example of a pseudo-cleft sentence introduced by *what* (Dušková, et al., 2009: 538) highlighting the subject in a form of a nominal relative clause, clearly dividing the thematic and rhematic part of the sentence. The Czech sentence subverts this division and by placing the subject at the very end it makes the subject a rheme, as, for instance, opposed to example (67) below, in which the translator followed the structure of the English sentence:

- (67) **What the wizard guessed** was always difficult to know.

Kolik čaroděj uhodl bylo odjakživa těžké říci.

5. CONCLUSION

The aim of this thesis was to analyse the Czech counterparts of the English *tough*-constructions containing four most frequent adjectival *tough*-predicates (*difficult*, *easy*, *hard* and *impossible*). The primary focus was on the syntactic structure of the Czech clauses with the goal to observe possible favouring of certain structures over other ones when translating these types of predicates. In order to examine such tendencies possibly relating to the individual four groups of *tough*-construction, each set of the twenty five examples was at first examined separately, the results were then summarized in the final overview.

Concerning the syntactic structure, it was discovered that the examined one hundred instances follow five basic structural patterns of translation and the individual translation tendencies of the four groups of *tough*-constructions then differ only in their frequency (see 4.1.5.). Additionally, rare syntactic structures can be found in each of the four groups of Czech counterparts. The analysis showed that the most frequent means of translating these constructions (31%) is done by clauses containing a situational subject realized by an infinitive construction, followed by a copular verb *to be* and an adjective, which in most instances creates a semantic counterpart to the English adjectival *tough*-predicate and thus denotes the difficulty of the action described. This structure was then followed by those counterparts whose structure was transformed by the translators into “typical” sentences following the S-V-O pattern (27%), therefore containing a lexical verb in its finite form, in most instances also accompanied by an adverb, a Czech counterpart to the English adjectival *tough*-predicate.

Furthermore, the analysis discovered that 32% of the Czech translation counterparts of the English infinitival complements are realized by the aforementioned situational subject realized by the infinitive construction, 17% of the infinitival complements were then translated as finite lexical verbs. The analysis of another examined aspect, the realization of the English adjectival *tough*-predicate, revealed the tendency to translate the English adjective as a corresponding Czech adverb (40%), closely followed by an adjectival complement of the copular verb *to be* (39%), a surprising amount was then left untranslated by the translator (16%). The temporal analysis showed that 60% of the examined English *tough*-constructions employ a past simple, which the Czech translators kept in 55% of the instances as 5% of the Czech clauses employed the present simple. The second most frequently employed tense,

present simple (35%), was kept in 33% of the instances, the exception made by the use of the future tense in 2% of the Czech clauses. Finally, the examination of the functional sentence perspective of the Czech semantic equivalent of the English subject showed that while English subjects are overall thematic, 3% of their Czech counterparts were transformed into rhemes of the sentences.

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7. RESUMÉ

Tato práce se zabývá českými překladovými protějšky anglických *tough*-constructions. *Tough*-constructions jsou anglické vazby s transpozicí předmětu infinitivu do pozice subjektu, přičemž jejich verbonominální přísudek nejčastěji obsahuje adjektiva jako *difficult* těžký, *easy* snadný, *hard* těžký, *impossible* aj. Tyto anglické vazby nemají v českém jazyce syntaktickou obdobu a kromě *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny* (2009) od Libuše Duškové a kol. jim v české lingvistické literatuře nebyla věnována pozornost. Práce si tudíž klade za cíl zjistit, jakými prostředky jsou tyto konstrukce překládány, jelikož absence jejich českého protějšku dává při jejich překladu překladatelům volnou ruku a tudíž je předpokládána široká škála syntaktických struktur a protějšků jednotlivých větných členů.

Práce je rozdělena do několika částí. Stručný úvod následuje teoretická část, která shrnuje dosavadní poznatky o morfo-syntaktických vlastnostech *tough*-constructions a *tough*-predicates, tedy adjektiva, substantiva a slovesa, která doplňují infinitiv vazby. V této souvislosti je nejprve krátce zmíněna problematika dřívějších generativistických přístupů, které se začaly analýzou těchto vazeb zabývat. Následuje rozbor „prototypických“ *tough*-constructions a jejich možných podob, na který navazuje analýza sémantických a morfologických vlastností podmětu těchto vazeb. Dále je zkoumána přijatelnost frází odkazujících k určitému času v minulosti, které jsou v těchto vazbách často zavrhovány. Následuje souhrn poznatků a sémantických vlastností *tough*-predicates, tedy adjektiv, substantiv a sloves doplňujících infinitiv *tough*-constructions, které mohou kladně nebo záporně hodnotit jak popisovaný děj, tak konatele. V této souvislosti jsou zmíněny některé novější analýzy, které dokazují přijatelnost jimi zkoumaných adjektiv, substantiv a sloves coby *tough*-predicates. Teoretickou část uzavírá kapitola o aktuálním členění větném dokazující praktičnost užití těchto vazeb v písemné i mluvené komunikaci. Práce vychází především z *Infinitival complement clauses in English* (1989) od Maira, gramatik Huddlestona a Pulluma a kol. *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language* (2002), Bibera a kol. *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English* (1999), Quirk a kol. *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* (1989) a Duškové, a kol. *Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny* (2009). Pro praktickou část této práce je pak nejvýznamnější *Příruční mluvnice češtiny* (2008) od Grepla a kol.

Pro praktickou část této práce bylo z česko-anglické části paralelního korpusu InterCorp, který je pro českou veřejnost zprostředkováván Českým národním korpusem, vybráno sto příkladů anglických *tough*-constructions vyskytujících se v anglicky psané beletrii a jejich českých překladových protějšků. Pro účely této práce bylo vyhledávání zúženo na *tough*-constructions obsahující čtyři adjektiva, která se v těchto konstrukcích vyskytují nejčastěji – *difficult*, *easy*, *hard* a *impossible*. Pro každou z těchto čtyř skupin bylo tudíž vyextrahováno dvacet pět příkladů.

Analýza sta příkladů se dělí na několik samostatných částí. V první části je podrobně zkoumána syntaktická struktura českých překladových protějšků anglických *tough*-constructions. Pro pozorování případných tendencí překladatelů upřednostňovat při překladu jednotlivých skupin *tough*-constructions určité konstrukce jsou tyto čtyři skupiny nejprve zkoumány samostatně. Rozbor vždy začíná nejčastěji se vyskytující konstrukcí a pokračuje rozbohem méně častých až jedinečných překladů. Závěrečnou část syntaktické analýzy tvoří tabulka poskytující ucelený přehled syntaktické struktury českých protějšků všech zkoumaných *tough*-constructions a krátké shrnutí výsledků a jejich porovnání s poznatky prof. Libuše Duškové. Následuje analýza překladových protějšků infinitivu a jejich realizace v českých větách, způsob překladu anglického adjektiva ve funkci *tough*-predicate, zkoumán je též časový odkaz anglických i českých vět a poslední část tvoří krátká analýza aktuálního členění větného sémantického protějšku anglického podmětu. Analýza je vždy doložena na příkladech, které jasně ilustrují zmiňovanou problematiku.

Poslední kapitola praktické části je pak věnována závěru, který stručně shrnuje výsledky analýz jednotlivých předmětů zkoumání. V případě syntaktické struktury českých překladových protějšků se ukázalo, že nejfrekventovanějším syntaktickým protějškem (31%) jsou konstrukce obsahující situační podmět realizovaný infinitivem, který je následován sponovým slovesem *být* a sponou ve formě kvalifikujícího adjektiva. Toto adjektivum tvoří sémantický protějšek anglického adjektivního *tough*-predicate a hodnotí tak popisovaný děj. Druhým nejčastějším syntaktickým protějškem anglické vazby (17%) jsou poté věty obsahující podmět, přísudek a předmět, příklady jednoho z nejčastějších anglických větných typů vyznačující se strukturou S-V-O (subject – verb – object). Sémantický protějšek anglického adjektiva poté v těchto větách tvoří nejčastěji odpovídající české adverbium.

Analýza překladových protějšků anglického infinitivu ukázala, že tato slovesa jsou do českého jazyka nejčastěji (31%) překládána coby zmiňovaný situační podmět realizovaný infinitivní konstrukcí, druhou nejfrekventovanější možností (17%) byl poté překlad infinitivu

coby časovaného slovesa ve funkci přísudku. Celkem 40% anglických adjektiv bylo českými překladateli přeloženo pomocí odpovídajícího adverbia, přičemž druhou nejčastější možností překladu těchto *tough*-predicates (39%) bylo užití odpovídajícího českého adjektiva ve funkci spony slovesa *být*. Rozbor časového odkazu anglických a českých vět ukázal, že většina (60%) *tough*-constructions odkazuje k času minulému prostému, 5% českých překladatelů však od tohoto časového odkazu upustilo a využilo čas přítomný prostý. Z 35% anglických vazeb odkazujících k prosté přítomnosti pak byla 2% přeložena s využitím odkazu na budoucnost. Analýza aktuálního členění větného anglických podmětů a jejich českých sémantických protějšků potvrdila tématičnost podmětů anglických, 3% českých protějšků však byla přeměněna na rématické části věty.

8. APPENDIX

Appendix: English *tough*-constructions and their Czech translation counterparts

| No. | Source | English | Czech |
|------|--|---|---|
| (1) | <i>Tolkien, J. R. R. – Pán prstenů: Společenstvo prstenu</i> | They were, if it came to it, difficult to daunt or kill. | Když na to přišlo, nebylo snadné je zastrašit nebo zabít. |
| (2) | <i>Francis, Dick – Chladná zrada</i> | And don't forget, a large proportion of it was coins, which are both heavy and even more difficult to exchange in quantity than notes, once they are out of Norway. | Nezapomeňte taky, že v pytlích bylo hodně mincí, které jsou jednak těžké, jednak téměř nesměnitelné, jakmile opustí Norsko. |
| (3) | <i>Clarke, Arthur C. – Setkání s Rámou</i> | When they had completed their own manoeuvre, Rama was two thousand kilometres away, and difficult to see against the glare of the sun. | Když dokončili svůj vlastní manévry, Ráma se vzdálil na dvě stě tisíc kilometrů a proti sluneční záři byl už těžko patrný. |
| (4) | <i>Rowlingová, J. K. – Harry Potter a Fénixův řád</i> | “Yes, as gamekeeper fresh air must be so difficult to come by,” said Umbridge sweetly. | „No ano, jako hajný jistě těžko přijdete na čerstvý vzduch,“ řekla sladce Umbridgeová. |
| (5) | <i>Orwell, George – 1984</i> | Syme's fate was not difficult to foresee. | Nebylo těžké předvídat Symův osud. |
| (6) | <i>Hailey, Arthur – Konečná diagnóza</i> | “What I'm trying to say, I suppose, is that I might be difficult to live with.” | „Pokouším se vám vysvětlit, že život se mnou by nebyl snadný.“ |
| (7) | <i>Wells, Herbert George – Neviditelný</i> | “No doubt you are a bit difficult to see in this light, but I got a warrant, and it's all correct.” | „Není pochyby, že vás je v tomhle světle kapku těžko vidět, ale mám v ruce zatykač a je tedy všechno v pořádku.“ |
| (8) | <i>Austen, Jane – Pýcha a předsudek</i> | Her mind was less difficult to develop. | Proniknout za její duševní obzor nevyžadovalo takové úsilí. |
| (9) | <i>Rowlingová, J. K. – Harry Potter a vězeň z Azkabanu</i> | The parchment was damp, and enormous teardrops had smudged the ink so badly in places that it was very difficult to read. | Pergamen byl zavlhlý a inkoust byl místy natolik rozmazaný obrovskými slzami, že text přečetl jen s velkými obtížemi. |
| (10) | <i>Harris, Thomas – Mlčení jehňátek</i> | The human skin is fiendishly difficult to deal with if your standards are as high as Mr. Gumb's. | S lidskou kůží se pracuje nesmírně obtížně, když máte tak vysoké nároky. |
| (11) | <i>Franzen, Jonathan – Rozhřešení</i> | What exactly her father thought about Corecktail was difficult to know. | Bylo těžké odhadnout, co přesně si o Korektalu myslí otec. |
| (12) | <i>Lodge, David – Nejtišší trest</i> | These sticky little wafers are quite difficult to detach from your fingers and dispose of. | A ty prťavé lepkavé oplatky se dost obtížně odtrhují od prstů a těžko se jich zbavuje. |
| (13) | <i>Forsyth, Frederick – Čtvrtý protokol</i> | Of course, in the hands of teenagers these were difficult to insure. | Samozeřejmě pokud je motocykl v rukou mladíků, je to s pojišťováním obtížné. |
| (14) | <i>Grisham, John – Partner</i> | Because the past was not yet complete, the future was difficult to contemplate. | Jelikož minulost nebyla kompletní, šlo jen obtížně uvažovat o budoucnosti. |

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| (15) | <i>Tolkien, J. R. R. – Pán prstenů: Společenstvo prstenu</i> | What the wizard guessed was always difficult to tell. | Kolik čaroděj uhodl, bylo odjakživa těžké říci. |
| (16) | <i>Weinberg, Steven – Snění o finální teorii</i> | Unfortunately this notion of the rigidity of physical theories is very difficult to pin down at all precisely. | Tento pojem rigidity fyzikálních teorií se naneštěstí obtížně specifikuje zcela přesně. |
| (17) | <i>Orwell, George – 1984</i> | They were wretched, flimsy things, but cooking-pots of any kind were always difficult to get. | Byly to nicotné krámy, ale nádobí se těžko shánělo. |
| (18) | <i>Irving, John – Rok vdovou</i> | But by then her name had been changed – in the brothel, they'd reduced her name to Vratna because her real name was too difficult to pronounce – and her first two months of "salary" were withheld because her so-called debts to the brothel had to be deducted from her earnings. | V té době ji už změnili jméno – v bordelu ho zkrátali na Vratna, protože její skutečné jméno se obtížně vyslovovalo – a zadrželi jí první dva měsíční „platy“, protože z výdělku museli strhnout údajné dluhy vůči bordelu. |
| (19) | <i>Orwell, George – 1984</i> | In the absence of any real intercommunication between one part of Oceania and another, this was not difficult to arrange. | A protože neexistovala žádná komunikace mezi jednotlivými částmi Oceánie, nebylo těžké to zaranžovat. |
| (20) | <i>Tolkien, J. R. R. – Pán prstenů: Dvě věže</i> | "But I have only had one rapid glance, and that was difficult to get." | „Ale jenom jsem se jednou podíval a i to mi dalo dost práce.“ |
| (21) | <i>Trevor, William – Příběh Lucy Gaultové</i> | "It's difficult to explain." | „To se dá jen těžko vysvětlit.“ |
| (22) | <i>Austen, Jane – Pýcha a předsudek</i> | "Young ladies of her age are sometimes a little difficult to manage, and if she has the true Darcy spirit, she may like to have her own way." | „Mladé dámy v jejím věku bývají někdy svéhlavé, a má-li v žilách pravou darcyovskou krev, pak se asi nerada podřizuje.“ |
| (23) | <i>Irving, John – Rok vdovou</i> | The feeble night-light from the master bathroom cast such faint illumination into Ruth's room that the few photographs of Thomas and Timothy were difficult to see. | Slabé noční světlo z ložnice pána domu vrhalo do Rútina pokoje tak mdlé světlo, že pár fotografií Thomase a Timothyho bylo stěží vidět. |
| (24) | <i>Weinberg, Steven – Snění o finální teorii</i> | The equations of general relativity are notoriously difficult to solve except in the simplest situations, but this does not detract from the beauty of the theory itself. | Rovnice obecné teorie relativity jsou kromě nejjednodušších případů notoricky obtížně řešitelné, to však neubírá na kráse teorii samotné. |
| (25) | <i>Adams, Douglas – Stopařův průvodce po Galaxii</i> | The machine was rather difficult to operate. | Zacházet s rádiem nebylo zrovna snadné. |
| (26) | <i>McEwan, Ian – Pokání</i> | But friendships were not easy to cultivate. | Nebylo však jednoduché pěstovat přátelství. |
| (27) | <i>Di Robilant, Andrea – Milenci z Benátek</i> | Giustiniana's attraction to him was easy to explain. | Bylo snadné vysvětlit, čím ji přitahoval. |
| (28) | <i>Nabokov,</i> | She was, however, not easy to deal | Neměl jsem to s ní však snadné. |

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| | <i>Vladimir – Lolita</i> | with. | |
| (29) | <i>Chandler, Raymond – Muž, který měl rád psy</i> | He was easy to follow by his size, even in a crowd. | Bylo snadné sledovat ho, protože i v davu čněl nade všemi. |
| (30) | <i>McEwan, Ian – Pokání</i> | The first boot was easy to find, but the second took him a while. | První našel snadno, ale druhá mu zabrala víc času. |
| (31) | <i>Trevor, William – Příběh Lucy Gaultové</i> | The drag of his solitude was not easy to overcome and the hour he had spent in Madame Vacelles's company had not been disagreeable. | Přítež osamělosti se nepřekonávala lehce a hodina, kterou strávil ve společnosti madame Vacelles, nebyla nepříjemná. |
| (32) | <i>Wells, Herbert George – Neviditelný</i> | To those who appreciate the extraordinary irascibility of the Invisible Man, the rest of the encounter will be easy to imagine. | Ti, kdo plně chápou mimořádnou popudlivost Neviditelného, dovedou si snadno představit dohru, jíž tato srážka skončila. |
| (33) | <i>Roth, Philip – Lidská skvrna</i> | Mark's was probably the most difficult personality it was ever Coleman's lot to try, not to understand – the resentments were all too easy to understand – but to grapple with. | Mark byl pravděpodobně nejproblematictější osobnost, jakou bylo Colemanovi kdy souzeno ne pochopit – ty projevy zášti se daly pochopit až příliš snadno –, ale vychovávat. |
| (34) | <i>Francis, Dick – Drahý čas</i> | Unfortunately that's all too easy to get hold of. | Tu bohužel můžete získat snadno. |
| (35) | <i>Hailey, Arthur – Konečná diagnóza</i> | A program of deliberate self-adjustment which had lasted fifteen years was not easy to shake off suddenly. | Program vědomého přizpůsobování prostřednosti realizoval patnáct let a nebylo snadné náhle jej ze sebe setřást. |
| (36) | <i>Fieldingová, Joy – Panenka</i> | She found him easy to talk to. | Zjistila, že se s ním ráda baví. |
| (37) | <i>Weinberg, Steven – Snění o finální teorii</i> | And why are some states of atoms or molecules particularly easy to jump to by absorption of photons? | A proč atomy a molekuly při pohlcení fotonů přeskakují jen do některých stavů? |
| (38) | <i>Grisham, John – Partner</i> | With binoculars, I could see the chimney, and the signals were easy to collect. | Dalekohledem jsem viděl na komín, příjem signálů byl dobrý. |
| (39) | <i>Grisham, John – Partner</i> | He'd been a cop for years and was not easy to intimidate. | Dlouhá léta byl policajtem a nedal se snadno zastrašit. |
| (40) | <i>Tolkien, J. R. R. – Pán prstenů: Dvě věže</i> | "It isn't easy to find." | „Není snadné to najít.“ |
| (41) | <i>Kilham, Benjamin; Gray, Ed – Mezi medvědy</i> | He happened to be missing half of his right ear, so he was easy to identify. | Chyběla mu polovina pravého ucha, takže byl snadno k poznání. |
| (42) | <i>Siddons, Annie Rivers – Bezpečné výšiny</i> | Sam Forrest was very easy to talk to. | Se Samem Forrestem se tak snadno rozmlouvalo. |
| (43) | <i>Day, Cathy – Cirkus v zimě</i> | "Women willing to work in a hot laundry aren't so easy to come by anymore," Ollie told his wife, "what with the war and all." | „Ženská, co půjde dělat do prádelny, se těžko najde, když si teď za války může zaměstnání vybírat,“ postěžoval si jednou |

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| | | | Mildred. |
| (44) | <i>Tolkien, J. R. R. – Hobit</i> | “Water is not easy to find there, nor food.” | „Vodu je tam těžké najít, právě tak jako něco k jídlu.“ |
| (45) | <i>Smith, Zadie – O kráse</i> | The Plymouth was always easy to find in supermarket parking lots. | Plymouth byl tak na parkovištích u samoobsluh vždycky lehko k nalezení. |
| (46) | <i>Grisham, John – Poslední vůle</i> | The skin business was lucrative; traffic was always good and cash was easy to skim. | Obchod s nahotou byl lukrativní, provoz slušný a zisk poměrně snadný. |
| (47) | <i>Lodge, David – Hostující profesor</i> | Even if they were in many respects a bunch of freaks, he found them easy to get along with. | I když byli všelijak praštění, vycházel s nimi bez problémů. |
| (48) | <i>Pratchett, Terry; Gaiman, Neil – Dobrá znamení</i> | But he was easy to forget, was Mr White. | Jenže jakmile pan Bílý sešel lidem z očí, okamžitě na něj zapomínali. |
| (49) | <i>Grisham, John – Klient</i> | “Is it easy to get to?” | „Lze se k němu dostat?“ |
| (50) | <i>Day, Cathy – Cirkus v zimě</i> | Caesar’s path was easy to follow – a broken fence in the camel lot, enormous footprints heading toward a stand of trees. | Cestu, kudy slon prchal, poznal docela snadno, protože ve výběhu velbloudů byl polámaný plot a v půdě obrovské otisky vedoucí ke skupině stromů. |
| (51) | <i>Orwell, George – 1984</i> | There came into it – but it was something hard to describe. | Něco se tam připletlo, ale dalo se to těžko popsat. |
| (52) | <i>Barnes, Julian – Žádný důvod k obavám</i> | Quite a few of them were hard to find, and there was hardly a queue or a flower at any of their tombs. | Dost z nich bylo těžké najít a u jejich náhrobků člověk sotva narazil na zástupy lidí nebo na květinu. |
| (53) | <i>Tolkien, J. R. R. – Pán prstenů: Společenstvo prstenu</i> | For meat was hard to come by. | Vždyť maso je dnes vzácnost. |
| (54) | <i>Siddons, Annie Rivers – Bezpečné výšiny</i> | I spend a long time staring at them, wondering why they were so hard to see. | Dlouho jsem jejich směrem upírala zrak a přemítala, proč je tak těžké je zahlédnout. |
| (55) | <i>Lindseyová, Johanna – Zamilovaný ničema</i> | “And good servants are so hard to come by, especially those you want to keep,” Reggie added. | „Dobré služebnictvo se špatně shání, zejména takové, které si chceš nechat nastálo,“ dodala Reggie. |
| (56) | <i>Steelová, Danielle – Druhá šance</i> | “I’m fascinated, although today will be hard to top.” | „Jsem okouzlený, ačkoli dnešek asi sotva něco překoná.“ |
| (57) | <i>Tolkien, J. R. R. – Pán prstenů: Společenstvo prstenu</i> | “And if we are careful that will be hard to find.” | „A budeme-li opatrní, nenajdou ji lehce.“ |
| (58) | <i>de Bernieres, Louis – Mandolína kapitána Corelliho</i> | He stuck it into his mouth, found it too hard to bite, and crammed it into his ear. | Strčí ho do pusy, zjistí, že na kousání je moc tvrdý, a nacpe si ho do ucha. |
| (59) | <i>Grisham, John</i> | The kid was impassive, hard to read, | Markova tvář měla zcela |

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| | – Klient | preoccupied with an invisible spot somewhere on the floor. | neproniknutelný výraz. Oči měl upřené k zemi, jako by na ní pozoroval nějakou neviditelnou skvrnu. |
| (60) | <i>Amis, Kingsley – Šťastný Jim</i> | Margaret's response to it, though violent, was hard to interpret. | Způsob, jakým Margaret reagovala, i když tak učinila velmi prudce, bylo těžko si vyložit. |
| (61) | <i>Brownová, Sandra – Chut' lásky</i> | She wasn't hard to come by, nor was she valuable, but he was fond of her. | Nebylo těžké ji sehnat, ani nebyla cenná, ale měl ji rád. |
| (62) | <i>Franzen, Jonathan – Rozhřešení</i> | "Oh, Dad," she said, "these are hard to handle, I should have realized." | „No jo, tati,“ podívala se na něj omluvně. „Tyhle jednohubky se špatně berou do ruky. Měla jsem si to uvědomit.“ |
| (63) | <i>Asimov, Isaac – Ocelové jeskyně</i> | "They're hard to get hold of." | „Není snadné ho sehnat.“ |
| (64) | <i>Angellová, Jeanette – Dvojí život</i> | The restaurant was hard to forget. | Na takovou restauraci se nezapomíná. |
| (65) | <i>McEwan, Ian – Pokání</i> | The bread was hard to cut and tasted of mould. | Chleba se dal sotva ukrojit a chutnal po plísní. |
| (66) | <i>Roth, Philip – Lidská skvrna</i> | Generous thoughts were hard to come by that day. | Ušlechtilých myšlenek se mi ten den nějak nedostávalo. |
| (67) | <i>Harris, Thomas – Mlčení jehňátek</i> | The idea of a single Godhead also being a Trinity is hard to reconcile, particularly for Sammie, who's not positive how many people he is himself. | Myšlenka jediného boha, který je zároveň Svatou trojicí, je velice těžká k pochopení, obzvlášť pro Sammieho, který nemá jasno v tom, z kolika jedinců se skládá on sám. |
| (68) | <i>Harris, Thomas – Mlčení jehňátek</i> | "After that, they're not hard to raise." | „Vypiplat z ní můru už není potom tak těžké.“ |
| (69) | <i>Le Carré, John – Single & Single</i> | "Left side of bear will be too hard to eat." | „Levá strana bude na jídlo příliš tuhá.“ |
| (70) | <i>Angellová, Jeanette – Dvojí život</i> | "In this business they are sometimes hard to find." | „Přiznejme si, že v naší branži je podobných klientů jako šafránu.“ |
| (71) | <i>Steelová, Danielle – Druhá šance</i> | And in spite of her occasional conflict and concern about him, she still found John hard to resist, and she was just as excited as he. | A Fiona si navzdory příležitostnému váhání uvědomovala, že mu jen těžko odolává, a těšila se do Paříže stejně jako on. |
| (72) | <i>Wells, Herbert George – Neviditelný</i> | But on the other hand I am hard to catch. | Naproti tomu je těžko mě chytit. |
| (73) | <i>Francis, Dick – Chladná zrada</i> | "Rolf is sometimes hard to please." | „Rolfovi je někdy těžké vyhovět.“ |
| (74) | <i>Grisham, John – Klient</i> | The past three hours with Hardy had not been nothing but quick questions, and the habit was hard to break. | Poslední tři hodiny mluvili s Hardym jen v krátkých otázkách a teď mu přišlo těžké překonat tento návyk. |

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| (75) | <i>Franzen, Jonathan – Rozhřešení</i> | But the fish had a starchy grain and was hard to get a grip on. | Jenže ryba měla nepoddajné maso, tuhé maso, a tak bylo těžké se k chrupavce probíjet a zachytit ji. |
| (76) | <i>Pratchett, Terry – Zloděj času</i> | There were so many mountains that sometimes they were impossible to see, because they got in the way. | Bylo tam tolik hor, že některé z nich ani nebylo vidět, protože je zakrývaly ty hory, které byly blíž. |
| (77) | <i>Frost, Mark – Seznam sedmi</i> | “I considered going to the police, but my part in it seemed impossible to explain, too deserving of blame; what could I have told them?” | „Uvažovala jsem, že bych měla jít na policii, ale moje úloha v celé záležitosti byla tak těžko vysvětlitelná, tak snadno napadnutelná, co bych jim byla řekla?“ |
| (78) | <i>Franzen, Jonathan – Rozhřešení</i> | “A great worker is almost impossible to fire,” Alfred said. | „Dobrého dřiče je téměř nemožné vyhodit,“ vedl Alfred dál svou. |
| (79) | <i>Pratchett, Terry – Soudné sestry</i> | She could even sense a few people, who were hardest of all – human minds were thinking so many thoughts all at the same time that they were nearly impossible to locate. | Vnímala dokonce i lidi – to bylo nejtěžší, protože v lidských hlavách byla taková spleť myšlenek, že bylo téměř nemožné je sledovat. |
| (80) | <i>Steelová, Danielle – Strážný anděl</i> | But any of those possibilities seemed impossible to believe. | Ani jednomu však nemohli uvěřit. |
| (81) | <i>Grisham, John – Poslední vůle</i> | The question seemed impossible to answer. | Zdálo se však, že na takovou otázku odpovědět nelze. |
| (82) | <i>Brown, Dan – Andělé a démoni</i> | The section was impossible to miss. | Nebylo možné jej minout. |
| (83) | <i>McEwan, Ian – Pokání</i> | And just as she predicted, Briony had been outside somewhere, sulking and impossible to find. | Přesně, jak předpovídala, toulala se rozmrzelá Briony někde venku a nebyla k nalezení. |
| (84) | <i>de Bernieres, Louis – Mandolína kapitána Corelliho</i> | Father Arsenios found the small door of the house impossible to negotiate, and so Mandras was carried outside by his redoubtable mother and left on the quayside to talk with the clergyman. | Otcí Arseniovi se nakonec nepodařilo protáhnout se úzkými dveřmi do domu, a tak Mandrase vynesla jeho hrozivá matka ven a nechala ho na nábřeží, aby si mohl s duchovním promluvit o samotě. |
| (85) | <i>Smithová, Zadie – O kráse</i> | Hence the Keller Library: a long, draughty room on the ground floor of the English Department with a green carpet, red walls and too many windows – it is impossible to heat. | Tak vznikla Knihovna Helen Kellerové: dlouhá místnost v přízemí katedry anglistiky, která má zelený koberec, červené stěny, příliš mnoho oken, prohání se tam průvan a prakticky se nedá vytopit. |
| (86) | <i>Adams, Douglas – Stopařův průvodce po Galaxii</i> | It is one of those curious things that is impossible to explain or define, but one can sense when a ship is completely dead. | Je to jedna z oněch těžko vysvětlitelných či definovatelných věcí, ale když je nějaká loď úplně mrtvá, člověk to okamžitě intuitivně vycítí. |
| (87) | <i>Frost, Mark – Seznam sedmi</i> | Obsessively secret – exactly who they are is impossible to say. | Jsou posedlí tajemstvím – nelze přesně říci, kdo jsou. |
| (88) | <i>Harris, Thomas</i> | Green material is simply impossible to | Ze zelené kůže se nic ušít nedá. |

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| | – <i>Mlčení jehňátek</i> | work with. | |
| (89) | <i>Orwell, George – 1984</i> | He could not even fall back on the pretence that he had come to borrow the dictionary, because in that case Julia's presence was impossible to explain. | Nemůže ani předstírat, že si přišel vypůjčit Slovník, protože jak by vysvětlil Juliinu přítomnost? |
| (90) | <i>Cook, Robin – Toxin</i> | "The imported stuff is impossible to trace other than maybe the country." | „V druhém případě je absolutně vyloučeno vysledovat zdroj – nanejvýš by se dala zjistit země původu.“ |
| (91) | <i>Grisham, John – Advokát chudých</i> | "This place is impossible to heat or cool." | „Tohle místo se nedá vyhřát topením ani vychladit klimatizací.“ |
| (92) | <i>Nabokov, Vladimir – Lolita</i> | It was now groaning up a winding road and was impossible to pass. | Jen tak tak se teď plazil po klikaté silnici nahoru. |
| (93) | <i>Grisham, John – Bratrstvo</i> | People saw the ads (they were impossible to miss), and they heard the message, but most voters simply didn't want to be bothered. | Šoty viděli (ujít se jim nedalo) a vyslechli si jejich poselství, ale většina voličů si s tím jednoduše nechtěla lámat hlavu. |
| (94) | <i>Rowling, J. K. – Harry Potter a vězeň z Azkabanu</i> | "The information is hidden inside the chosen person, or Secret-Keeper, and is henceforth impossible to find – unless, of course, the Secret-Keeper chooses to divulge it." | „Příslušná informace je skryta v duši zvoleného člověka neboli Strážce tajemství, a nelze ji tudíž odhalit – pokud se ovšem Strážce tajemství sám nerozhodne ji někomu vyjevit.“ |
| (95) | <i>Frosyth, Frederick – Čtvrtý protokol</i> | "Unfurnished lettings are almost impossible to come by." | „Domy bez nábytku se skoro nevyskytují.“ |
| (96) | <i>Jamesová, Phyllis Dorothy – Plány a touhy</i> | "And one of her staff, Brian Taylor, admits that he found her impossible to work for and had asked for a transfer." | „A jeden z jejích podřízených, Brian Taylor, přiznává, že pro něj práce pod ní byla nemožná a že požádal, aby byl přeložen.“ |
| (97) | <i>Adams, Douglas – Sbohem, a díky za ryby</i> | He went across to the telephone machine and fiddled and fumed with all its buttons for a while, because it was the one which was particularly recommended by Which? magazine and is almost impossible to use without going mad. | Přešel k záznamníku a chvíli vztekle manipuloval s tlačítky, protože tento záznamník, doporučený časopisem Co vybrat?, bylo téměř nemožné použít, aniž byste přitom nezešileli. |
| (98) | <i>Roth, Philip – Lidská skvrna</i> | People do that when their countries are impossible to live in because the fascists have taken charge but not because of their mother's shadow... | To lidé dělají, když se v jejich zemích nedá žít, protože se vlády zmocnili fašisti, ale ne kvůli stínu vlastní matky... |
| (99) | <i>Frost, Mark – Seznam sedmi</i> | Only now there were multiple variations on that familiar rhythm: three, four, five footfalls, possibly more – whether there were actually others present or it was simply some acoustic peculiarity of the tunnel was impossible to determine. | Teď však bylo toho známého rytmu několik variací: tři, čtyři, pět došlápnutí, možná více – nebylo možno určit, zda bylo skutečně přítomno více osob, anebo zda šlo jen o nějakou akustickou zvláštnost tunelu. |
| (100) | <i>Grisham, John - Partner</i> | It was impossible to believe. | Zdálo se to neuvěřitelné. |

